

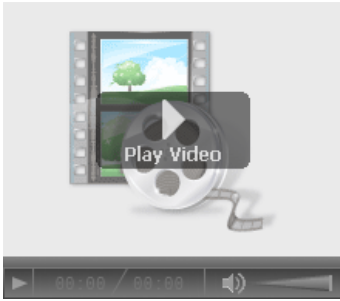
Spread the Word to End the Word

Print Article

5.0000/5 rating



Reported by: Tina Shively



It's a word that many find offensive.

And now there's a campaign to end the use of the word "retarded."

The Golisano Foundation is partnering with the Genesee Region Special Olympics in the "R" word campaign. It's part of a plan to create a more accepting world for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The nationwide campaign was started by young people a few years ago, and so far close to 150,000 people have taken the pledge to stop saying the R-word.

The agencies believe it will be tough to change popular culture, but Western New Yorkers can take the lead, if they think before they speak.

"The use of the word 'retard' or 'retarded' is demeaning," said Bob Marketell, director of the Genesee Region Special Olympics. "It denotes a behavior of clumsiness, of haplessness, of hopelessness, and that's not what people with intellectual disabilities are. They are vibrant, alive individuals that are contributing...Once people understand that, the use of that word will go by the wayside."

Marketell hopes local organizations take the pledge to stop using the R-word and instead keep another R-word in mind when referring to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, respect.

To find out how you can take the pledge, [click here](#).

Add comment

Name (required)

E-mail (required)

Website

1000 symbols left

Notify me of follow-up comments



Refresh

Send