

# Help Your Heart—Don't Smoke

**Smoking cigarettes is harmful.** It becomes an addiction that can lead to serious health problems. Quitting smoking will lower your risk of heart attack, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (known as COPD or lung disease). It will help you breathe easier and have more energy. In addition, your clothes, hair, and breath will smell fresher, and you will save money by not buying cigarettes. Most important, when you quit smoking, your children will not be exposed to your secondhand smoke. They will have your good example to follow.



Even if you do not smoke, it is important that you learn about the best ways to quit. Help those around you, and keep your children smoke free.



**Quit smoking and add years to your life!**

Mila decided to quit smoking. She made a firm pledge one morning, threw away her cigarettes, and used her willpower to quit for good. Mila used the following three tips and quit.

**1.**

**Learn how to handle urges to smoke.**

“Every time I felt stressed, I wanted to smoke. Instead of smoking, I found something to do, talked to a friend, or walked around the neighborhood.”

**2.**

**Get support.**

“I also attended a quit-smoking program in the clinic every Thursday night, and I got a lot of help from my family and the support group. Even my children are encouraging me.”

**3.**

**Use the nicotine patch or gum.**

“The doctor at the clinic suggested that I use the patch. The patch helped me control the urge to smoke.”