

NEW DAY NEWS



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WWW.STARTINGPLACE.ORG

Children of Addicted Parents

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IMPORTANT FACTS

- Alcoholism and other drug addiction tend to run in families. Children of addicted parents are more at risk for alcoholism and other drug abuse than are other children.
- More than 28 million Americans are children of alcoholics; nearly 11 million are under the age of 18. This figure is magnified by the countless number of others who are affected by parents who are impaired by other psychoactive drugs.
- Use of substances by parents and their adolescent children is strongly correlated; generally, if parents take drugs, there is a strong likelihood their children will also. Adolescents who use drugs are more likely to have one or more parents who also use drugs.
- The influence of parental attitudes on a child's drug taking behaviors may be as important as actual drug abuse by the parents. An adolescent who perceives that a parent is permissive about the use of drugs is more likely to use drugs.
- The following family problems have been frequently associated with families affected by alcoholism: increased family conflict; emotional or physical violence; decreased family cohesion; decreased family organization; increased family isolation; increased family stress including work problems, illness, marital strain and financial problems; and frequent family moves
- A relationship between parental addiction and child abuse has been documented in a large proportion of child abuse and neglect cases. Children of drug addicted parents are at higher risk for placement outside the home
- Children of addicted parents experience greater physical and mental health problems and higher health and welfare costs than do children from non-addicted families.

(from National Association for Children of Alcoholics)

The mission of The Starting Place is to improve lives through education, treatment and support services related to substance abuse, mental illness and co-occurring disorders



Joel Kaufman, Ph.D.
CEO

Breaking the Cycle

I started my career in substance abuse and mental health over thirty-five years ago. What soon became readily apparent to me in providing counseling services to individuals and families was the intergenerational transmission of substance abuse and mental health issues. What also was readily apparent was how few "break the cycle" programs existed.

Children of alcoholics and addicts can have deep-seated psychological and emotional reactions to growing up with an addicted parent. If an adult has a drinking or drug problem and they have children, they may be affected to the extent that it affects their quality of life throughout their adulthood.

Parental substance abuse presents not only a risk for intergenerational transmission of substance abuse disorders but also substantial risk for repetition of problematic parent-child interactions, including abuse and neglect.

The family system may function well enough when stress is low. However, substance-abusing parents are already severely hindered in their ability to provide a safe and nurturing home to their children; increased stressors such as loss of jobs, poverty, and illness will only exacerbate the situation.

Unless effective intervention occurs, there is an increased likelihood that these patterns will be repeated from one generation to the next.

Funding effective prevention/early intervention/treatment programs is a smart investment.

Our Annual Breakfast Fundraiser

On Friday morning, September 9, 2011 from 8AM till 10AM Starting Place's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser entitled, Unleashing Your Potential, will take place at the Riverside Hotel. We will be honoring former Senator Dave Aronberg and also celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Drug Courts in Broward County. The cost for the breakfast is \$70/person. Space is still available. For more information contact Dr. Kaufman at 954-327-4090 or go to the Starting Place Website- www.startingplace.org

Club Infinity

One of the needs in our community has been for a place where young people can gather on the weekends and have fun in a safe and alcohol and drug free environment. Matt Brown is a recent graduate of Fort Lauderdale High School and came up with this idea on his own. With the assistance of two caring and supportive parents Matt created Club Infinity. One night on the weekends will be a movie night and another night will be a music/dance night. The Starting Place agreed to be the sponsor for Club Infinity that has a similar mission to The Starting Place. For more information and possible support of this needed community resource, check out the Club Infinity website- www.clubinfinityevents.com

Our Services and How to Contact Us

The Starting Place provides outpatient substance abuse and mental health services to children, teens, young adults and their families. Our services include assessments, individual counseling, family counseling, case management, psycho-educational and therapy groups, psychiatric services, school based services, and aftercare/continuing care. Services are office-based and in-home and school-based. Our hours are tailored to meet the needs of our clients. Fees are based on a sliding scale and we also accept a few different insurances.

If you would like to set up an appointment or speak to someone further about our services, please contact us at (954) 327-4060. You can also check us out at our website at www.startingplace.org

<http://www.facebook.com/thestartingplace>

