



Banana Moments

Family Life in the Network Culture
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The modern drug addict looks like your child

By Joanna Jullien

On July 29, 2010, I attended the premier of a trailer, Collision Course, at KVIE in Sacramento, a new documentary project launched by Pathway to Prevention about the growing epidemic of teenage drug addiction in the network culture. The purpose of Collision Course is to raise awareness of good parents everywhere that the modern drug addict has a new face: the affluent, the average kid, the super athletic, and the honor student.

Kim Box is the Executive Director of Pathway To Prevention, a non-profit founded by a group of mothers in Granite Bay, CA whose children fell into drug addiction. Box's 20-year-old daughter was an honor high school student who is today clean and sober for over a year.

The modern drug addict looks like your child. Prescription drug abuse is fast becoming the new norm for youth where the network culture meets the drug culture.

Kathie Sinor, Health Instructor at Granite Bay High School and chair of the prescription drug abuse prevention committee for the Coalition for Placer Youth, attended the Collision Course premiere. "Prescription drug abuse is fast outpacing marijuana and alcohol as the first drug used by children as young as 12 years old," said Sinor.

David (last name withheld for privacy), 22 years old, is a graduate of Granite Bay High School and a recovering drug addict. He served as a panelist at the premiere event.



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Kim Box, Executive Director of Pathway to Prevention, quit her executive job to help her honor student recover from drug addiction.



"Parents have no idea how little they know about their kids' lives," said David who explained that prescription drugs are so accessible and socially acceptable. Mobile phones make it so easy to be clandestine. "Dealers deliver the drug to your home. They look like average kids. It looks so normal. They do not inject drugs, they are taking pills from medicine cabinets."

David advises parents to check their children's mobile phones and social networks and get educated about the codes. "For example, 'see you at doug' refers to the AM/PM market at Douglas and Sierra College in Roseville where drug deals take place."

David's mother wants parents to know that their biggest mistake is thinking: "that's not going to happen to my child".

"Denial, shame and embarrassment are the biggest stumbling blocks to getting young people the help they need before the 'monster' of addiction takes over their lives," she said.

To make a donation for the Collision Course documentary, go to: <http://www.pathwaytoprevention.org>.

Visit: Coalition For Placer Youth at www.coalitionforplaceryouth.org.



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