



PARENTS FOREVER

March 20, 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

PARENTS FOREVER is a support group for parents and family members who are dealing with the day-to-day challenges of having addicted family members in our lives. Issues such as supporting without enabling, sharing information and resources with regard to treatment options, learning to take care of ourselves and most importantly, finding ways to maintain a relationship with our loved ones. We do not give advice, we do not counsel, we do not pass judgment. We are simply there to share our experiences, offer understanding and caring, and provide support whenever it is needed.

From time to time we are asked to speak publicly about our experiences as parents of addicted children. Parents of teens (and younger) are very anxious to learn how not to make mistakes, and to find new ways of dealing with the subject of drug use/and abuse with their teens.

We are more than willing to do this, and several of our members have participated in community health panels and public forums.

Lately we have been feeling that if we are to continue with our public speaking role, **PARENTS FOREVER** should develop a "speaking program" that would consistently cover the points we want to make each and every time we express our point of view publicly. While this "speaking program" would not have to be delivered verbatim, it would be a very valuable asset to our group.

Recently we came across a very dynamic and powerful presentation on drug use/and abuse being delivered in high schools called "Don't Buy the Lie About Getting High" by the Courage to Change Foundation. After viewing this presentation, it occurred to us that this is the kind of program that we want to develop for **PARENTS FOREVER**. An honest, down to earth, realistic look at the effects of addiction, delivered by people who have travelled the road themselves. And believe me, parents have the same kind of personal experiences to share/

We approached the Courage to Change Foundation about helping us develop this kind of speaking program and they immediately offered their support and assistance. We have found their understanding of the "parents point of view" to be like nothing we have come across so far, and are very excited about working with them on our project, as well as many exciting initiatives they have in mind for the future.

Yours truly,

Frances Kenny, Facilitator
PARENTS FOREVER