

# STRAIGHT, INC.

*Benefits from Cincinnati's Charity Golf Classic and banquet*

"MY NAME IS JAY. I'M SEVENTEEN years old and I am a druggie. The drugs I've done are alcohol, pot, speed, hash, prescriptions, over the counters, uppers, downers, LSD, PCP, cocaine . . . I've been doing these drugs for three years, and I've been in the program for seven days . . ."

This familiar story is told over and over every week of the year at the beginning of each meeting of STRAIGHT, by the newest of the hundreds of boys and girls admitted to its program each year. The audience is made up of nearly two hundred other kids with similar problems, and about twice as many parents, siblings, relatives, and other guests.

Making this admission is the first step in the process of awareness of drug and alcohol abuse, and what it has done to the life of that youngster. "Honesty" is the first rule of STRAIGHT and Jay is learning to become honest with his feelings and his past, so that he can use the tools of change which will guide him in staying drug-free for the rest of his life.

The NFL Alumni's Cincinnati Chapter is proud to help support the Cincinnati STRAIGHT program through proceeds from the Celebrity Banquet and from the Alumni Charity Golf Classic.

Drug and alcohol abuse have reached epidemic proportions among youth today, seriously affecting the lives of these kids and their families. The average affected child starts using drugs at age 12. Parents become confused and don't know where to turn.

STRAIGHT, INC. was founded in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1976, in response to that need. A group of parents discovered that their teenagers were in serious trouble with drugs and alcohol and



*Mrs. Reagan attends Straight, Inc. Monday night meeting.*

that nothing available seemed to work . . . really work in the sense of not only achieving abstinence, but also in restoring a quality of life. Working with professionals, they created STRAIGHT as a non-profit, privately funded treatment center for drug-using young people and their families.

In just nine years STRAIGHT has grown to five operating programs located in St. Petersburg, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Orlando, and Cincinnati. This year new programs will also open in Detroit and Boston. Over 15,000 family members have been helped by treatment at STRAIGHT, making it the largest and most successful program for adolescents in the country.

STRAIGHT came to Cincinnati in 1981 when a committee of five parents and seven community leaders organized to raise the necessary funds to develop a site in Milford, a suburban community of Cincinnati. Within a few months the group of workers and professionals grew substantially and raised \$475,000. The present building opened in January, 1982, when fifty-five local youngsters were transferred from St. Petersburg to be Cincinnati Straight's first occupants. Through the support of the community the dream became a reality.

The Cincinnati STRAIGHT family is especially proud and excited about the national recognition it has received in



Mrs. Reagan welcomes Straight, Inc. audience.



Mrs. Nancy Reagan is greeted by William D. Oliver, Executive Director of Straight, Inc. National (left) and Jerry Rushing, Director of the Cincinnati Branch.

the past ten months. On September 17, 1984 First Lady Nancy Reagan personally attended a regular Monday Night Meeting of STRAIGHT, INC. in Cincinnati, listening for three hours, while young people told of their lives of drug abuse and despair.

Mrs. Reagan was so impressed with the success of STRAIGHT that in April of this year Jerry Rushing, Director of the Cincinnati program, and 16-year-old Robin Page, a graduate of the program, were invited to the White House to personally address a meeting of Mrs. Reagan and 17 other first ladies from around the world, comprising The First Ladies' Conference on Drug Abuse. Adding to this recognition is the fact that Cincinnati STRAIGHT was the only program invited to attend that meeting.

STRAIGHT combines the experience of professionals, parents and young people to help the family solve the problem. Love, honesty, responsibility, laughter, tears, and open communication destroy the stronghold of drugs. The program is tailored to the adolescent (12 to 21) drug user.

The Cincinnati STRAIGHT family is proud of the achievements it has accomplished over the past three and one-half years, proud that Cincinnati STRAIGHT has become the largest and most successful (70% success rate) adolescent drug rehabilitation program in the midwest, proud to be able to serve and be part of the Cincinnati community, a community which has proven second to none in community pride and dedication, proud of their "kids" who have improved their lives and are moving on to becoming responsible citizens. ●



THE WHITE HOUSE

June 10, 1985

Dear Friends:

My heartfelt thanks goes to the National Football League Alumni for choosing STRAIGHT, Inc. as the official charity of the Cincinnati Chapter Golf Classic proceeds.

You are to be commended for participating in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse among our young people. This problem is threatening to destroy an entire generation of children and it must be stopped. Your support of STRAIGHT, Inc. is a shining example of the efforts it will take to wipe out drug abuse altogether.

Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to our nation's most valuable resource, our youth.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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