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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Joe Margolis
VP Public Affairs
(813) 576-8929

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The Adolescent Drug Treatment Program That Works



STRAIGHT is a nonprofit family-oriented treatment program for drug using adolescents and their families. Robert L. DuPont, M.D., the founding director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, has praised the STRAIGHT program as "the best in the country."

STRAIGHT is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The JCAHO has been accrediting healthcare facilities for more than three decades and is recognized as the nation's leading accreditational organization. Accreditation by this prestigious organization is an honor which reflects that STRAIGHT meets the highest standards for professional patient healthcare.

The STRAIGHT treatment program is based on a philosophy of peer support; kids helping kids, parents helping parents, and families helping families under the supervision of trained professionals. The treatment objective is the revitalization of the young person and the family. STRAIGHT helps people recapture a productive, meaningful, and drug free life.

STRAIGHT conducts parent and sibling sessions in addition to individual and family counseling. One result of the STRAIGHT program is that 92% of the brothers and sisters of young people who participate in the treatment program never become involved with drugs. STRAIGHT has intervened and educated these siblings, while helping the child with the substance abuse problem. The best form of prevention is intervention.

STRAIGHT has received acclaim for the positive use of peer support in creating a drug free lifestyle. Based on the premise that peer pressure is responsible for their involvement with drugs, STRAIGHT uses supervised peer pressure to help young people get off and stay off drugs.

As evidence of its success, over 70% of STRAIGHT graduates remain drug-free following treatment.

Although not an inpatient facility, STRAIGHT conducts an intense daily schedule of therapeutic sessions which include the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Young people progress through the Five Phases of the treatment program.

The Five Phases

Young people progress through the following Five Phases while participating in the STRAIGHT treatment program.

FIRST PHASE is the period immediately after the young person enters the program. They are working on self-concept and developing honesty about using drugs. The adolescent lives with a host family who has a child in an advanced stage of the program.

SECOND PHASE is when the adolescent returns home to begin working on family relationships in addition to developing a positive self-concept.

THIRD PHASE focuses on achievement. The young person returns to the school or work environment and must face old friends and say no to the peer pressure to use drugs.

FOURTH PHASE is the time when the young person begins staged withdrawal from active involvement in the program. They are working on the constructive use of leisure time, developing positive friendships, and engaging in recreational activities with family and friends.

FIFTH PHASE is the final phase when the adolescent has recaptured a well-rounded, drug free lifestyle and concentrates on social responsibility and service to others.

Upon graduating from the Fifth Phase, the young people and their families have access to an Aftercare Program. This program provides a comprehensive six month program for graduates and their families consisting of a continuation of group therapy.

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

STRAIGHT

STRAIGHT, Inc. National Corporate Office 3001 Gandy Boulevard St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813) 576-8929

The Drugs Children Use

Drug/Street Names	How long it lasts in hours	Health Effects	Symptoms
Alcohol <i>50%</i>	1-12	Causes depression, aggression, blurred speech, muscular incoordination. Frequent use can lead to cirrhosis of liver, pancreatitis, brain disorders, vitamin deficiencies & malnutrition.	Puffiness of face, redness of eyes, depression, disorientation, shallow respiration, nausea, cold and clammy skin. Dehydration.
Marijuana pot, reefer, grass, THC, hash, hash oil	2-4	Can impair memory perception & judgment by destroying brain cells. Raises blood pressure. Contains more known carcinogens than cigarettes.	Euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, disoriented behavior, staring off into space, hilarity without cause, time distortion. Bloodshot eyes, dry mouth & throat.
Barbiturates, Methaqualone quaaludes, ludes, yellow jackets, red devils	1-16	Can cause slurred speech; staggering gait; poor judgment, and slow, uncertain reflexes. Large doses can cause unconsciousness and death.	Slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior with no odor of alcohol. Sedation.
Cocaine coke, snow, blow, gold dust, lady	1/2-2	Causes dilated pupils, increased blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate & body temperature. Can cause seizures, heart attacks and death.	Apathy, anxiety, sleeplessness, paranoia, hallucinations, craving for more cocaine. Weight loss. Constant sniffing.
Crack Cocaine crack, rock	5-10 min.	More & stronger cocaine is getting to the brain quicker, increasing risks of cocaine use.	Same as cocaine.
Amphetamines uppers, speed, black beauties, dexies	1/2-2	Increases heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure. High doses can cause tremors, loss of coordination & death from stroke or heart failure. Frequent use of large amounts can produce brain damage, ulcers and malnutrition.	Decreased appetite, dilated pupils, sleeplessness, agitation, unusual increase in activity.
PCP (phencyclidine) angel dust, killer weed, crystal cyclone, elephant tranquilizer, rocket fuel	variable	Increased heart rate and blood pressure. Large doses can cause convulsions, comas, heart & lung failure and ruptured brain vessels. Users may show long-term effects on memory, judgment, concentration and perception.	Sweating, dizziness, numbness, hallucinations, confusion, agitation. Violence and aggression or silence & withdrawn state.
Heroin Mexican brown, China white, Persian porcelain, "H"	12-24	Repeated use can lead to infections of heart lining & valves, skin abscesses & congested lungs. Can lead to convulsions, coma & death.	Watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, tremors, irritability, panic, chills, sweating, cramps, nausea.
Gas & Glue Rush, Locker Room, aerosol cans, amyl nitrate, gasoline, lighter fluid. (Inhaled through a saturated cloth in a bag covering nose and mouth.)	variable	Brain damage occurs when used over a long period of time. All these chemicals carry considerable risk, particularly of cardiac arrhythmia.	Very alert, keen senses, hallucinations, dizziness, scrambled words & disconnected sentences. Smells like whatever the child was doing.
Hallucinogens LSD, Mescaline, Peyote, mushrooms	3-12	Dilated pupils, nausea, increased blood pressure, hallucinations, stomach cramps, blackouts. Flashbacks, a recurrence of the drug effects, may be a problem for some.	Beady eyes, nervous, erratic behavior, laughing, crying, personality changes, "sees" smells, "hears" colors. Marked depersonalization.
MDMA Adam, Ecstasy, X-TC (A Designer Drug: —structural analogs of controlled substances.)	variable – up to days	Increased heart rate & blood pressure. Blurred vision, chills, sweating. Believed to cause permanent brain damage.	Confusion, depression, sleep problems, anxiety, paranoia, muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse

DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT

The President recognizes a "Daily Point of Light" six days a week. Daily Points of Light are those who successfully address our most pressing social problems through direct and consequential acts of community service. Individuals, families, businesses, groups, and organizations of every conceivable type are taking successful action to combat drug abuse, illiteracy, inadequate education, environmental decay, homelessness, hunger, AIDS, and other critical ills.

By reclaiming a drug-plagued, crime-ridden neighborhood, tutoring those who are illiterate, mentoring a troubled young person, befriending a lonely senior citizen, providing housing for the homeless, or protecting our environment, Americans have enriched their communities and, in doing so, have brought meaning and fulfillment to their own lives.

Daily Points of Light recognition is intended not only to honor those who are making a difference in the lives of those in need, but more importantly to urge every individual, family, business, union, school, place of worship, club, group, and other institution in America to make serving others central to their life and work. As the President has said, "If you have a hammer, find a nail. If you know how to read, find someone who can't. If you're not in trouble, seek out someone who is..."

"The growth and magnification of Points of Light must now become an American mission... It is increasingly clear to more and more Americans that our greatest social problems — drugs, education reform, the environment, crime — will be solved only by the active engagement of tens of millions of individuals and millions of groups and institutions who have never been involved before in these problems and who will never be compensated one nickel for their work."

Points of Light demonstrate that problems in America can be solved. The President believes that every American wants to be a Point of Light to those in need, if only they are shown how they can make a difference. We therefore strongly encourage not only every newspaper, magazine, television and radio station, but also every other business, group, and other institution in America, to communicate in their own way the story of Daily Points of Light to the entire Nation.

01/01/92

St. Petersburg couple selected as a presidential Point of Light

By CAROL A. MARBIN
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — A local couple may have finished 1991 uneventfully, but they'll begin 1992 as the nation's 656th "point of light."

Today, President Bush will recognize Susan and Terry Brimmer as a Daily Point of Light for their efforts as volunteers for Straight Inc., a St. Petersburg-based adolescent drug and alcohol program, the White House has announced.

"We're really excited," Susan Brimmer said Tuesday. "The best part is it brings some attention to Straight."

The Brimmers, of 1542 86th Ave. N, became involved with Straight in 1987 when their son became a client of the program. When their son graduated from Straight, the Brimmers continued to volunteer.

"Two of our boys are alive and well today because of Straight," Mrs. Brimmer said, referring to her son and another young man the Brimmers met through Straight. They consider him a family member.

Founded 13 years ago, Straight nationally operates six treatment centers that use confrontational rap sessions and peer-pressure therapy to try to free adolescents from drug dependency. A seventh treatment center, in Dallas, closed this fall.

The Brimmers work in Straight's parent intake program, where they help parents enroll their children

and help parents adjust to the shock of having a child with a drug dependency. And they share their own experiences with other parents during "parent weekends," usually four a year.

The Brimmers were nominated for the award by the St. Petersburg Straight chapter, said Carvel Lewis, staff assistant for the White House's Office of National Service. Susan Brimmer works at Val-Pak, a direct mail company in St. Petersburg. Terry Brimmer is a certified public accountant in Tampa.

Lewis said the service office looks for award recipients who are involved in volunteer work that others can emulate. They were chosen for today because the president wanted to focus on drug and alcohol abuse, and drunken driving, for the New Year's holiday.

"We like to highlight for national recognition the best that Americans are doing, and those things that are most easily replicated," Lewis said.

The White House recognizes one Point of Light each day, Lewis said. The Brimmers will be the 656th Point of Light, an honor that may enable them to meet the president if he comes to the area. They also will receive a personal letter from the president.

In September, the 575 points of light who had been recognized by then were invited to Walt Disney World in Orlando to meet with Bush. The Brimmers would be invited to any similar celebration in the future, Lewis said.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

ENLARGED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1992

December 30, 1991

The President today recognized Susan and Terry Brimmer of St. Petersburg, Florida, as the 656th Daily Point of Light for the Nation. Mr. and Mrs. Brimmer, 46 and 44, devote their time to helping adolescents who suffer from substance and alcohol abuse.

In 1987, the Brimmers became involved with Straight, a program for teens who are drug/alcohol abusers and their families when their son became a client. After their son's graduation from Straight, the Brimmers continued to volunteer over 15 hours a week with both parents and children.

Through the "Parent Intake" program, the Brimmers help parents enroll their child in the Straight program and adjust to the shock of having a child with drug and/or alcohol addictions. They share their own experiences with other parents during "Parent Weekends" which usually occur four times a year and "Awareness Rap" sessions where they encourage parents to be directly engaged in their child's recovery.

Since many teens who participate in Straight are from other cities, volunteer "host families" take children into their homes for the duration of the program, which usually lasts at least one year. The Brimmers have hosted over 76 children in 14 months. They have legally adopted one of the boys who stayed at their home during his recovery. After the children graduate from the Straight program and move away, the Brimmers still keep in touch with them and see them often.

Mr. Brimmer drives patients to outside support meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous once a week. He often treats them to bowling, a movie, or dinner either before or after their meetings. The Brimmers and the teens they help are dedicated to increasing public awareness of drug and alcohol abuse among teens and they participate in speaking engagements where they discuss prevention, signs of abuse, and their experiences with the Straight program from both the parent's and child's perspectives.

The President salutes Susan and Terry Brimmer for exemplifying his belief that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Miah Homstad
(202) 456-6266

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STRAIGHT



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*The Adolescent Drug
Treatment Program that Works*

The STRAIGHT Mission

*A Message from the
National Executive Director*



At STRAIGHT, our mission is to help young people and their families regain drug free lives.

Adolescents who experiment with drugs enter the first stage of the progressive drug use cycle. In order to protect the lives of our young people, we must take the stand that any substance use or experimentation simply cannot be tolerated. The progressive nature of drug use demands that we adopt a no tolerance attitude.

Just as we must face the reality that experimentation with drugs is dangerous, we must also accept the fact that many of our young people are already using drugs and alcohol regularly. These children come from low, middle, and upper income families. The chilling fact is that drug use touches all of us and cuts across every economic strata.

As a nation, we are floundering in the search for a means to eradicate this problem. Until we can achieve a national goal to stop substance use, we must have the means to return young people who are using drugs to full physical and mental health. STRAIGHT offers the means to enable young people to regain healthy, drug free lives.

Drug users often resort to crime, but the real crime is that adolescents who use drugs develop self-destructive patterns of behavior and remain powerless to change them.

STRAIGHT can help young people develop drug free behavior and positive support systems. We can show them that they are valuable human beings with important contributions to offer their families and their communities.

It is not effective to offer children a short term solution to their long term drug problem. We must care enough to invest as much time as necessary to help adolescents not only to end their drug use, but to develop coping mechanisms which will keep them drug free. It is not easy, but our dedication does not come from providing an easy solution. Our children have a right to grow up drug free. We are committed to investing as much time and effort as it takes to help these young people and their families regain control of their lives.

STRAIGHT works. With treatment centers in many metropolitan areas, we've earned recognition as a leader in the field of adolescent drug treatment.

BERNADINE BRAITHWAITE
National Executive Director

"Barbara and I attended a STRAIGHT meeting in Florida last year and I was able to see for myself how inspiring and supportive the program is to those who need it the most. I was struck by the spirit and determination of these young people to pick up their lives and kick their drug habit."

STRAIGHT helps families learn to cope with and overcome the problems of drug abuse. The program brings families closer together in the rehabilitation process. It gives young people the opportunity to reclaim their lives with the help and support of family participation. And a supportive family can help a person overcome any crisis no matter how large or how small."

Organizations like STRAIGHT give us added strength in waging the war against drugs. I congratulate STRAIGHT on its tremendous efforts and accomplishments."

President GEORGE BUSH

"At Straight, a drug-free life is only the beginning—recovering the quality of life was our family's real triumph."

Parent of a STRAIGHT teenager

STRAIGHT

The Adolescent Drug Treatment Program that Works

In 1976, a group of concerned parents and professionals in St. Petersburg, Florida sought to find a way to help children stop the progression of drug use. At that time there were few alternatives. The limited number of programs which did exist were ineffective and had been designed primarily for adults. Those founding STRAIGHT knew that in order to help young people who used drugs it was imperative that professionals design a treatment model specifically for adolescents. They realized that an important component of this model must be the involvement of the entire family.

Today STRAIGHT is considered one of our nation's most effective drug treatment programs for adolescents. The treatment program combines the most advanced, professional treatment techniques and caring peer support to help young people overcome problems with drugs and alcohol. However, the program is not limited to the individual. STRAIGHT treatment involves the entire family. Family participation is an important aspect of our successful therapeutic model. STRAIGHT is now available to families throughout the United States at its centers located in many metropolitan areas.

STRAIGHT maintains a commitment to excellence and we take pride in accreditation

by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, our nation's most prestigious accrediting agency. Compliance with the standards of the JCAHO ensures that our patients receive the highest quality of health care.

The Warning Signs

Although adolescence is a time of social, emotional, and physical change which may mask some of the warning signs of substance use, there are specific symptoms which often indicate that a young person is using drugs.

The symptoms that warned of drug use a decade ago remain the same today. Substance use among young people, however, has increased and reached frightening proportions in our country. Drug use is indeed a powerful adversary whose hold, especially on our young people, becomes progressively stronger. STRAIGHT continues to meet the challenge of breaking the cycle of drug use with a successful adolescent drug treatment program based on the philosophy of positive peer pressure. This means kids helping kids, parents helping parents, and families helping families under the supervision of trained professionals.



Individualized counselling

The Symptoms

- Anger, hostility or irritability.
- Disappearance of money or other valuables.
- School truancy or declining grades.
- Loss of motivation, energy, or self-discipline.
- Long or short-term forgetfulness.
- Minimal attention span and trouble concentrating.
- Family arguments and conflict with parents or siblings.
- Changes in friends and becoming evasive about new ones.
- Unhealthy appearance and bloodshot eyes.
- Changes in dress or grooming habits.
- Trouble with the law either in or out of school.



Individual and family treatment planning process



Peer support and interaction in the small group setting

STRAIGHT Works

At STRAIGHT the main treatment objectives are the revitalization of the family, and helping young people regain productive, meaningful, drug free lives.

The STRAIGHT program has been praised for its high success rate and family-oriented approach to treatment. Thousands of young people and their families have received help at STRAIGHT.

An outstanding additional benefit of the family-oriented treatment program is that virtually all brothers and sisters of young people who come for treatment *never* become involved with drugs. STRAIGHT has intervened and educated these children while helping the youngster with the substance use problem.

Because STRAIGHT provides outpatient treatment with a host home component, there is never a waiting list. This increases the program's cost effectiveness. By placing the child with another family in the program during the first phase of treatment, the individual success rate is also increased.

Although STRAIGHT is a non-profit organization, there are costs incurred. Families most effectively served are those with adequate financial resources and living accommodations to permit their full participation in the program. With treatment centers throughout the country, we are available to provide an immediate response to families in need of help.

For help with a drug using child, get STRAIGHT. It works.

"My daughter Diane lost her life 20 years ago following experimentation with LSD. That changed my life. For 20 years I've written, lectured, traveled, made films, and been on the Presidential Commissions for Drug Abuse. I know something about drug abuse and its problems, and I'm talking about not just illegal drugs, but smoking and drinking.

I've seen many organizations in the rehabilitation and prevention field. STRAIGHT is one of the best. It does not offer any excuses or short cuts. It calls for abstinence from all drugs.

It uses peer pressure, which is a great reason for people taking drugs to begin with, to help them get off. And not just peer pressure of colleagues, but the pressure of family love and family knowledge... because families have to be involved.

You couldn't go straighter than to go with STRAIGHT if you want your dear ones off of drugs.

STRAIGHT is straight with me."

ART LINKLETTER

"We've seen fantastic changes in Jim. The real person is coming out again. We feel that it has saved his life, and our lives in a way."

JANICE W. WOOLEY, M.D.
Pediatrician and parent of a
STRAIGHT teenager.
Seattle, Washington

STRAIGHT

Treatment

The STRAIGHT treatment model contains the concepts of a therapeutic community and the most advanced and innovative treatment procedures designed to meet the special needs of drug using adolescents. The therapeutic model reinforces the importance of family as an integral part of a young person's support system. Both family and positive peer support are used to help adolescents develop into healthy adults.

Drug and Alcohol Use Among Young People

Young people who experience difficulties during adolescence may begin substance use. They learn that by simply using a drug or alcohol they can change the way they feel and find immediate acceptance from other drug users. As a result, the child who uses drugs is denied the opportunity to develop appropriate coping skills. Drug and alcohol use become a major component of their emerging self concept.

As drug use continues, young people develop a psychological dependency and come to believe that they need drugs in order to function effectively. Their lack of alternative coping behaviors may make such a belief a self-fulfilling prophecy. Adolescents who begin experimenting with drugs are very vulnerable to an escalating pattern of drug use as a means of escape.

Family-Oriented Treatment Approach

STRAIGHT views the treatment of adolescent drug use as a process that involves the whole family. Parental involvement is a requirement for participation in the program. Parents attend group meetings and learn skills to effectively deal with the ways their child's drug use has affected their lives. A similar program is provided for siblings. The whole family system, which has been impaired by the problems resulting from a drug using child, is reconstructed and revitalized.

Five Phases of Treatment

The young people in our program progress through a five phase treatment process. Each stage of treatment focuses on a particular area of functioning that is important for healthy adolescent development. The goals and activities of each phase provide an orderly structure for each patient's progression through the treatment program.

■ **First Phase** focuses on the individual's ability to recognize their own need for treatment, honestly look at the consequences of past behaviors, and become familiar with and begin to practice a structured recovery program. They come to accept themselves as part of a peer group who make positive changes in their lives. This is a very intensive period of special care.

All patients are given a full medical examination and psychiatric evaluation during the First Phase of treatment. The Utilization Review Team, a clinical team composed of members of the professional and peer counseling staff, monitors patient progress on an ongoing basis to evaluate and update their treatment services plan.

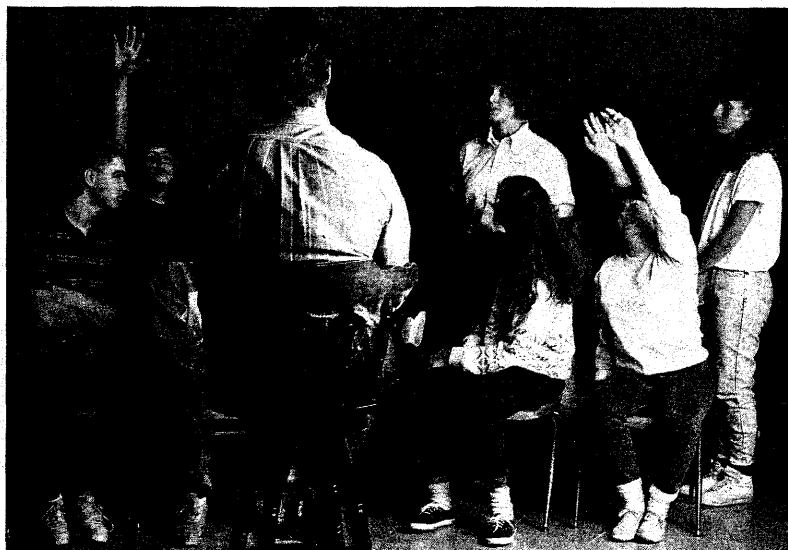
■ **Second Phase** focuses on the family. The major goal for the patient is to improve and rebuild family relationships. Phase Two allows family members to apply the more appropriate,



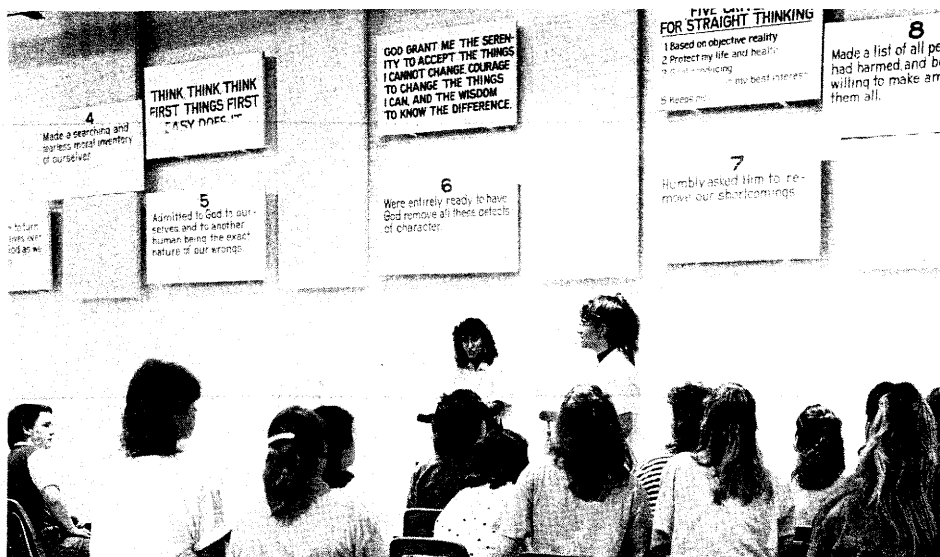
Voluntary Aftercare Program

Our Goal

At STRAIGHT our goal is not only to help adolescents and their families become free of drugs, but to allow them to recapture the quality of life.



Staff directed discussion



Large group therapy process

positive, and effective interpersonal skills they are learning in the STRAIGHT program. Young people return to their homes to implement the skills learned and develop a positive family relationship.

■ **Third Phase** focuses on the patient's ability to fulfill their responsibilities at school or in a work situation. This is a very important phase in the recovery process. For the first time since entering treatment, they will be placed outside the protective drug free environment which the program provides. In returning to school or work, a young person may face peer pressure to use drugs again or be challenged by day to day disappointments, frustrations, and stress. During this phase, they learn to rely on the experience of others who have successfully managed such pressures by applying the principles presented in the STRAIGHT program. The individual is taught to maximize their achievement potential by setting realistic goals and developing effective work and study habits.

■ **Fourth Phase** focuses on the development of quality friendships and healthy relationships and the constructive use of leisure time consistent with drug free living. Much of the social activity for young adults in our culture involves the use of alcohol and drugs. The

young people in our program learn to plan social events that do not involve substances. They learn alternative ways of spending their leisure time that are enjoyable and bring a sense of personal fulfillment. During this phase, the young people begin to rely less on the support of the large peer group and begin attending community support groups.

■ **Fifth Phase** focuses on service to others, social responsibility, and leadership. Young people assume much greater responsibility for their daily activities and identify the strengths and weaknesses of their own recovery program. At this time, minimal participation in the program is required. Fifth Phase is completed with a graduation ceremony.

Aftercare

For any graduate of the program, aftercare is an important component in maintaining a drug free life style. STRAIGHT provides a comprehensive six month program for graduates and their families. This vital service consists of a continuation of group therapy while providing courses on healthy relationships, living skills, and life planning.

"I have found it to be a unique treatment approach, offering unusually effective and affordable help to families caught up in the drug abuse epidemic... It focuses on teenagers and it actively involves parents in the treatment process. It is intensive and effective... uses teenage peer pressure for positive goals, reversing the pressures of the drug culture... it also respects the individuality of each young person and each parent..."

"Straight is one of the best programs of its kind in the country. What you do in the program helps the kids, helps the parents and helps the community."

ROBERT L. DuPONT
Founding Director,
National Institute on Drug Abuse

"It's my sincere professional opinion that the Straight, Inc. program is one of the best treatment programs there is for kids who are abusing drugs."

MAXIE C. MAULTSBY, Jr., M.D.
Director, Rational Behavior
Therapy Center College of
Medicine
University of Kentucky

"As one parent to another, I know there's no hurt a parent can be given that can equal that that your child can give you... But I'm proud of you because you have supported your children and given them the love they need."

NANCY REAGAN
Comments to STRAIGHT parents
and children—
Greater Washington, D.C.

STRAIGHT

In the Community

STRAIGHT provides education and community awareness on adolescent drug use and treatment through professional seminars, the STRAIGHT Speaker's Bureau, and outreach efforts.

Professional Seminars

The STRAIGHT clinical staff conduct presentations for medical professionals which contain the following: a program overview; adolescent development issues; drug use identification, intervention, and assessment procedures; the 12 Step recovery philosophy; and aftercare.

The clinical staff are often accompanied by young people from the program who share past drug using experiences.

Professionals are encouraged to visit our facilities and meet with the staff and patients.

Speaker's Bureau

Thousands of presentations are given each year by families who want to help others by telling how STRAIGHT has helped them. These awareness programs provide information about current patterns of drug use, how to recognize behavioral patterns associated with drug use, and the message that something positive can be done to help young people and their families.

STRAIGHT believes that families in crisis frequently identify better with other families who have had the same experience.

Family Service Centers

Family Service Center offices are located in areas where programs do not exist. These centers provide outreach and admission information and serve as a meeting place for area graduates who are participating in aftercare. The Family Service Center also conducts an active Speaker's Bureau.

Community Advisory Board

We are proud of our volunteer Community Advisory Board members whose efforts are instrumental in expanding STRAIGHT's community involvement. Community Advisory Board members generously donate their time and energy to facilitate community interaction and also assist STRAIGHT in responding to the needs of the community.



Speaker's Bureau—Sharing the STRAIGHT experience with the community



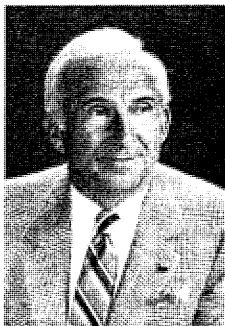
Community Advisory Board

STRAIGHT

National Leadership



National Board of Directors



Mel Sembler



Joseph Zappala

"Drug and alcohol dependency are two of the most tragic problems we face today. They affect a vital national resource—the American family. We must make every effort to end drug and alcohol use among our young people and Straight has an excellent record of success in meeting this goal. ... That's what organizations like STRAIGHT are about—our children, our families, and our future."

President RONALD REAGAN

"Straight seemed to us to be phenomenal. We have been involved in drug programs, we have seen far more of them, and we have read about most of them; but we have never seen a program that seemed so intelligently designed to bring about success in this very difficult field ..."

ANDREW I. MALCOLM, M.D.,
F.R.C.P.
"An Examination of Straight, Inc."
Toronto, Canada

"I have been greatly impressed by the work of Straight, Inc., an organization which has helped many to give up drugs and brought families back together in supporting roles all over the country."

Congressman CHARLES E.
BENNETT (D-Fla.)
Chairman, Florida Democratic
Delegation
U.S. House of Representatives

STRAIGHT

National Board of Directors and Management Team

The National Board is composed of dedicated individuals from across the nation who are responsible for establishing policy. These respected members of their communities generously volunteer their services and leadership to STRAIGHT.

Quality control is maintained through the leadership of the management team located at the corporate office. Here systems are developed to implement and monitor policies established by the National Board of Directors. Through a centralized management approach, the National Executive Director and corporate team direct program operations and fiscal services, new program development, continuing education, and ensure compliance with the standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Program Operations/Fiscal Services

The management team closely monitors and evaluates operations at the treatment programs, through various information gathering systems. The management team continually reviews the statistics on the number of clients and their stages of treatment to guarantee maintenance of this vital aspect of the STRAIGHT therapeutic model.

The STRAIGHT corporate staff is responsible for fiscal management of the local facilities. A centralized accounting system enables management to monitor budgets and guarantees that all facility operations are cost effective. Management and special audit teams review reporting systems and conduct on-site audits.

New Program Development

An important aspect of the corporate function is the development and expansion of new programs. The management team works closely with communities to ensure that a facility is appropriate and that a program grows in a reasonable time frame. STRAIGHT is committed to offering the best possible treatment program to the community.



The STRAIGHT Management Team

Continuing Education

Continuing education serves an important function in our effort to maintain and upgrade the quality of care. STRAIGHT management provides clinical, fiscal, and administrative seminars and workshops.

Commitment To Quality

STRAIGHT maintains the highest clinical standards and has established a professional staff of clinicians and administrators. The management team is dedicated to ensuring that STRAIGHT is comprised of quality personnel and that the policies and procedures implemented are in strict compliance with the JCAHO.

We take pride in our commitment to excellence.

A family oriented treatment
program for drug using
young people.

Joy C. Margolis
Vice President,
Public Affairs



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St. Petersburg, Florida
33702-2032
(813) 576-8929

Accredited by the Joint Commission
on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Key Facts About STRAIGHT

- STRAIGHT has treated over 50,000 family members nationwide since it was established in 1976.
- STRAIGHT is recognized as the largest and most successful long-term adolescent drug treatment program in the nation.
- STRAIGHT is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations—the nation's leading healthcare accreditational agency.
- Many insurance companies recognize this accreditation.
- 70% of STRAIGHT graduates remain drug free following treatment.
- STRAIGHT provides a structured Treatment Program comprised of Five Phases, plus an Aftercare Program:

First Phase: The adolescent lives with a host family who has a child in an advanced stage of the STRAIGHT Treatment Program. The adolescent confronts past drug-using experiences and works on developing a positive self-concept.

Second Phase: The adolescent returns home and begins working on family relationships.

Third Phase: The adolescent returns to school or work and must say no to the peer pressure to use drugs.

Fourth Phase: The adolescent begins staged withdrawal from active involvement in the program. The young person works on constructive use of leisure time and develops positive friendships.

Fifth Phase: The adolescent has recaptured a well rounded drug-free lifestyle and concentrates on social responsibility and service to others.

Aftercare: Upon graduating from the Fifth Phase, adolescents and their families have access to Aftercare—a six month program continuing group therapy.

National Corporate Office
3001 Gandy Boulevard • St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(813) 576-8929

STRAIGHT

Parents Checklist

Have You Observed . . .

- ☐ School tardiness, truancy, declining grades
- ☒ Loss of motivation, energy, self-discipline
- ☐ Loss of interest in activities, hobbies
- ☒ Forgetfulness — short or long term
- ☐ Short attention span, trouble concentrating
- ☐ Aggressive anger, hostility, irritability
- ☐ Sullen, uncaring attitudes and behavior
- ☐ Family arguments and strife with you or siblings
- ☐ Disappearance of money, valuables
- ☒ Unusual mood swings
- ☒ Changes in friends, evasive about new ones
- ☐ Unhealthy appearance, bloodshot eyes
- ☐ Changes in personal dress or grooming
- ☐ Trouble with the law in or out of school
- ☐ Unusually large appetite
- ☐ Use of room deodorizers and incense
- ☒ Drug-related graphics and slogans
- ☐ Pipes, small boxes or containers, baggies, rolling papers, or other unusual items

STRAIGHT

We • Are • Accredited

We're celebrating. Our efforts to give you the best care possible have received the seal of approval from the premier accrediting body in health care today. We're accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

We want you to celebrate with us. The quality of care you receive from us is important to you. It's important to us, too. That's why we volunteered to seek accreditation. We want to give you evidence of our commitment to quality and of our efforts to give you the best care and services we can provide.

Please take a few minutes to read this brochure. It explains the meaning of accreditation. It will also give you an understanding of the quality of care and services you can expect to receive from us.

What • Is • the Joint Commission?

The Joint Commission is a professional, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of care provided to people in hospitals, long term care facilities, psychiatric and substance abuse organizations, hospices, home care services, ambulatory health care organizations, and managed care systems. In achieving its

purpose, the Joint Commission serves as a national forum where health professionals and other concerned leaders can express their ideas about quality in health care. The Joint Commission turns the best of these ideas into standards for improving the quality of care and services in particular health care settings.

The Board of Commissioners of the Joint Commission is composed of practicing health care professionals from the American College of Physicians, the American College of Surgeons, the American Dental Association, the American Hospital Association, and the American Medical Association. A member of the public provides the Board with an important consumer perspective on health care issues.

Through this Board, numerous advisory committees, and a standards development and revision process that includes review by thousands of experts throughout the United States, the Joint Commission strives to assure that its standards always reflect the state of the art in health care.

The Joint Commission publishes its standards and uses them in a consultative and evaluative process called voluntary accreditation. We achieved our accreditation by participating in this process.

How We • Became • Accredited

The process began when our staff decided to seek accreditation. We asked the Joint Commission to send their highly trained surveyors to evaluate us for compliance with the standards. The surveyors are health care professionals with considerable experience in organizations like ours. They consulted with our professional and administrative staffs, reviewed virtually every area of our operation, and advised us on how to improve the care and services we provide. The surveyors sent a report of our survey to the Joint Commission for an accreditation decision, and, subsequently, the Joint Commission awarded us accreditation.

What • Accreditation • Means

Our accreditation means that we voluntarily asked to be evaluated by an outside, independent organization of health care professionals for compliance with national standards set by our peers. Those standards represent the best thinking about quality in health care in our country. Our accreditation means that we've been evaluated for compliance with those standards and have met them.

We believe our accreditation represents a significant achievement for us as well as for you. Celebrate this achievement with us!

*We are proud
of this Accomplishment*

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Atlanta

2221 Austell Road
Marietta, GA 30060
404-434-8679

Dallas

2900 Gateway, Suite 600
Irving, TX 75063
214-550-1177

Greater Washington

5515 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151
703-642-1980

Hampton Roads

Crossways Three
1430 Kristina Way, Suite D
Chesapeake, VA 23320
804-523-0715

Michigan

42320 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
313-453-2610

New England

53 Evans Drive
Stoughton, MA 02072
617-344-0930

Orlando

2400 Silver Star Road
Orlando, FL 32804
407-291-4357

Southern California

3780 Prospect Avenue
Yorba Linda, CA 92686
714-993-5500

Tampa Bay

3001 Gandy Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
813-577-6011

**STRAIGHT MAINTAINS A NATIONWIDE
24 HOUR HOTLINE
1-800-9-FRIEND**

STRAIGHT



Joint Commission

on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

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survivingstraightinc.com

**WE ARE CELEBRATING
OUR ACCREDITATION**

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

*by the
Joint
Commission
on accreditation of
healthcare organizations*



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE DIEMER

Vice President George Bush wipes a tear while listening to an emotional speech Tuesday at Straight Inc., a Pinellas County drug rehabilitation center. With him are his wife Barbara, left, Straight program member Shannon Osborn and U.S. Congressman Michael Bilirakis.

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

Bush Finishes Florida Swing

By BETH WHITEHOUSE
and MARK ZALOUDEK
Staff Writers

Vice President George Bush's brief stop at a Pinellas County drug rehabilitation center Tuesday made him cry, and he said that the visit was "as inspiring a 20 to 30 minutes as Barbara and I have had in our lives."

Afterward, Mrs. Bush lent her own inspiration to a Sarasota-Manatee organization whose aim is to help people who can't read or write - an estimated 40,000 adults in Sarasota County alone. She also attended a luncheon at the Hyatt Sarasota Hotel while the vice president attended a separate luncheon in Belleair.

The Bushes were on the Gulf Coast as part of a two-day political fund-raising swing through Florida. Bush, 62, has not yet announced his candidacy for president in 1988, but some people at Tuesday's events were wearing royal blue "George Bush 88" buttons. The Florida trip is expected to yield \$600,000.

While at the Pinellas Park center, the

Vice President's Wife Attends Sarasota Lunch

vice president and his wife pulled out white handkerchiefs and dabbed their eyes after a Tampa man told of how Straight Inc.'s family-oriented program helped him love his troubled teen-age son. The 18-year-old's former drug habit had dragged the family through courtrooms and cost \$100,000 in vandalism debts, the man said.

"Out of this nightmare of drug treatment and through this miracle of recovery at Straight, I love my son," said John Newcomer, 39, as he and his wife tried to hold back their own tears. Their son, Marc, is still enrolled in the Straight program, but has been off drugs for eight months.

Several youths spoke about their drug problems, and two other sets of parents

spoke about family struggles to overcome a child's drug habit. About 130 participants and graduates of Straight sat on one side of the room; Bush and the parents sat on the other.

The vice president listened to the half-hour presentation, and then spoke briefly to the crowd of about 450:

"Let me just say that I don't see why there's a dry eye in the house. I know I speak for all the casual observers here . . . when I say this is probably as inspiring a 20 to 30 minutes as Barbara and I have had in our lives."

The vice president cited his work with government agencies trying to stop the flow of illegal drugs into the country. "The people on the front lines who are risking their lives to stop the flow of drugs coming into this country are really the unsung heroes," Bush said.

But he added, "This problem will never be solved by interdiction of narcotics. It's got to be solved by what we've seen here today: by faith, by love of family, and by young people determined to just say no."

Continued on 6A

Bush Finishes Trip To Florida; Wife Visits Sarasota

Continued from 1A

Participants in the Straight Inc. program said they hope that the vice president's visit will help them attract the attention of other youngsters who are on drugs and want help to get off.

Straight Inc. has eight facilities around the nation, with about 1,000 participants, said Steve Knowles, associate director of therapy for the privately funded, nonprofit program. More than 6,000 people have graduated, he said.

The program costs a participant about \$9,000 for one year, said Charles Kott, whose son is enrolled.

Mark Kott, 19, was one of two youths who had met with the Bushes before their public appearance and sat with them throughout the presentation. Kott said the vice president kept whispering how impressed he was by the strength of the families involved.

Bush shook hands with a few of the youths, gave them the thumbs-up sign, and joked that one of the young people had made such a smooth speech that Florida Democrat Lawton Chiles should beware of future competition for his U.S. Senate seat.

The trip to Straight is not the first time a Reagan administration representative has visited the center. First lady Nancy Reagan paid a visit to the facility in 1982.

After the morning visit to the center, Bush went to a luncheon in Belleair while his wife traveled to a \$125-a-plate luncheon at the Hyatt Sarasota.

Mrs. Bush avoided questions from reporters about the Iran-Contra affair before the luncheon, hosted by the local Republican Party and attended by more than 100.

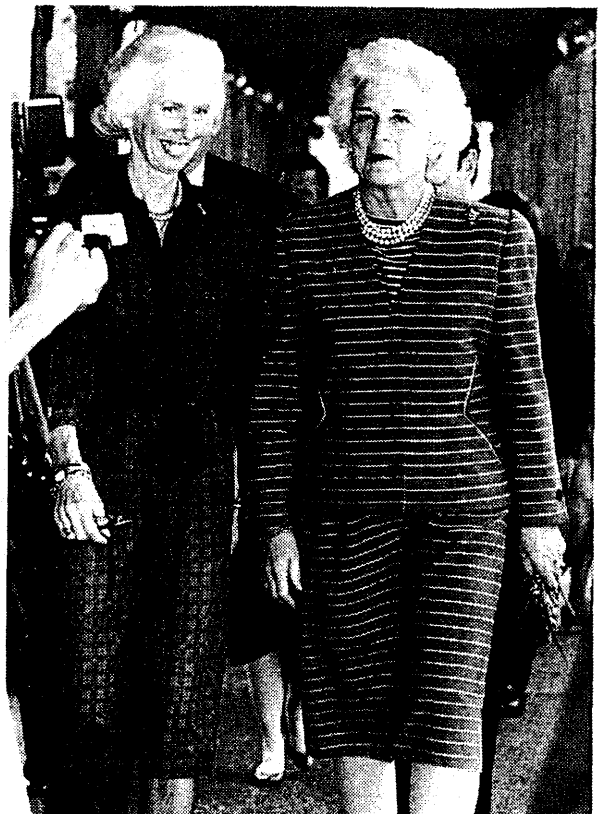
"I leave politics to my husband," she told reporters.

Mrs. Bush, 61, also spent almost half an hour with representatives of the Sarasota-Manatee regional chapter of American Women's ORT, an international education organization. She pledged her staff's support in helping eradicate illiteracy.

"Somehow you've got to get the word out," she said.

ORT members had sought Mrs. Bush's support to bring public attention to what they view as local indifference to illiteracy. ORT had teamed up last summer with the Literacy Council of Sarasota, an all-volunteer agency, to help people learn to read and write, but community response has been dismal, said Betty Sarlin, ORT's regional chairwoman for American affairs.

And when ORT invited employers to a forum on how illiteracy affects the labor force, "they didn't even show up," Sarlin told Mrs. Bush.



STAFF PHOTO/SALLY PETTIBON

Greta Lee Banzhaf walks with Barbara Bush on their way to the Hyatt Sarasota Tuesday.

Mrs. Bush has chosen illiteracy and reading programs as her personal concern, much as Mrs. Reagan has crusaded against drug abuse.

An estimated 700,000 American high school students will graduate this year without being able to read, Mrs. Bush said. Nationally, one in five Americans is functionally illiterate, she added.

Florida ranks 47th of the 50 states in its percentage of high school dropouts - "a shattering blow" for the state, Mrs. Bush said. She wouldn't comment, however, on what role government could play in fighting illiteracy, saying she prefers to see the private sector get involved.

"The best thing in meeting with Mrs. Bush today is we've gotten some visibility that we hope will get the business community to stand up and take notice," said Patti Hershorin president of ORT's Sarasota-Manatee region. "The rest of the community has to join the bandwagon."

After their Gulf Coast visits, the vice president and his wife traveled to Palm Beach for another fund-raiser. They began their visit Monday in Orlando and Melbourne.

Nancy, Di hear teen tales of drug abuse

By Susanne M. Schaler
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Va. — Nancy Reagan and Princess Diana heard gut-wrenching stories about drug abuse yesterday from teen-agers striving to recover at a suburban drug treatment center.

The two attended a 40-minute rap session at a program known as Straight, Inc., where they listened intently as a young girl told how she stabbed herself in the eye with a needle to get attention and a young man explained his regret at having tried to strangle his father.

All rattled off long lists of drugs they said had influenced their behavior, including alcohol, marijuana, heroin, cocaine and hallucinogens. Teary-eyed parents, their voices choking with emotion, stood up to criticize or praise their children.

"There's a great big, wonderful world out there waiting for you. We need you, but we need you clear-eyed and clear-minded," Mrs. Reagan told the group of about 150 teens and 300 adults after the session.

"Just stay with it. I love you, all of you," Mrs. Reagan said, her voice catching.

The princess, her face deeply flushed, said nothing at the end of the emotional session, but smiled as she accepted a small statue and two T-shirts from a leader of the session.

She laughed when the young man said the shirts could be used "for the jogging you or your husband may do."

The two women sat quietly in the front row, their backs to the television cameras. Mrs. Reagan wore a red Aldolfo coat-dress, and the princess a white wool suit.

Diana appeared startled when one of the young men leaped up from the group and shouted when his father called on him from across the room. The young man had received permis-



Princess Diana and Mike Kirsch listen to rap session

Associated Press

sion to rise to a higher step in the program, and the teens clapped and screamed approval as he ran across the room to hug his father and mother.

Youngsters in the program spend much of their time in such sessions as part of the program's method of using group therapy to keep the teen-agers drug free, on the theory that peer pressure got them involved in drugs.

The visit was Mrs. Reagan's third to a branch of Straight, a non-profit corporation that was founded in St. Petersburg, Fla., in 1976, and has branches in Orlando, Fla., Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Detroit, as well as Springfield.

Before the session, Mrs. Reagan and the princess held a private meeting

with two former members of the program, Kathy Turner, 17, and Mike Kirsch, 18, and their parents and officials from the program.

According to those at the session, Mrs. Reagan smiled and nodded encouragement as the two told their stories of drug abuse. The princess questioned the two about their drug use in a low and serious tone. She said she was curious whether their drug use was "to escape the responsibility life puts on us," and if the program had made them "feel a stronger person after you leave."

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy



Presidential Library Photocopy

AP

Royal 'rap session' First lady Nancy Reagan escorts Diana, the Princess of Wales, to the Straight Inc. drug rehabilitation center in Springfield to observe a 'rap session' with former drug users.

Diana and her husband, Prince Charles, are visiting the United States to promote British products.



DRUGS: Teen abusers start by age 12

By Kim Painter
USA TODAY

Almost half of the USA's teen drug abusers got involved before age 12, a survey shows.

Straight, Inc., a Florida-based drug treatment program, questioned 615 abusers ages 13-23 in treatment across the USA.

"We are reporting on the tip of the iceberg" by focusing on kids in treatment, said Suzanne Hard-

man, Straight's Washington, D.C., director. Findings:

- 63 percent have used cocaine vs. 7 percent in '84. "The drug of the middle-class kid," Hardman said.

- 61 percent used alcohol first; 30 percent used pot first.

- 65 percent used drugs a year before parents suspected.

- 70 percent were introduced to drugs by friends.

- 34 percent used drugs for

the first time at home.

To battle drugs, parents and teachers must fight peer pressure that starts as early as fourth grade, said Hardman.

Meanwhile, the Education Department Monday released a handbook to help schools.

For free copies, write:

Schools Without Drugs
Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

the battle against drugs

High on recovery

Plymouth group helps younger abusers straighten out

By BRENDA J. GILCHRIST

Free Press Staff Writer

Angie Perkins began using marijuana, hashish, opium and alcohol when she was 12 years old.

Perkins, now 15, found help with Straight Inc., a non-profit group that on Monday released its latest findings on the characteristics of 615 youthful drug users in its eight treatment centers nationwide.

On average, those under treatment began using drugs at 12, and their parents were unaware of the problem for 1½ to two years, said Matthew Murphy, director of the Straight program in Plymouth.

"This is not just a war against a common enemy, it is a struggle for the survival of America's children, America's families, and America itself," Murphy said in a news conference at the Detroit Press Club.

Straight Inc. treats drug users between the ages of 12 and 22.

Of the 60 being treated in Plymouth, 58 percent said alcohol was the first drug they used, and 33 percent used marijuana first.

Among the 60, 77 percent said they were introduced to drugs by friends, and 75 percent said they had at some time run away from home.

At Straight centers nationwide, use of cocaine prior to enrollment rose from 7.1 percent in 1984, to 27.6 percent in 1985, to 63 percent in the survey conducted last week, Murphy said.

Society's attitude toward substance abuse must change to one of intolerance, Murphy said.

Murphy said Monday marked the opening of a nationwide Community Action Network, aimed at involving communities in the fight against drug abuse. The network, with the assistance of church and school officials, will seek a wider dissemination of methods used in the Straight program,

he said.

The Straight program offers education and prevention services to parents and youths; free assessment services for early identification of drug use, and free services matching abusers with appropriate treatment. The program will also include a relapse prevention service.

Using volunteers, Straight provides treatment for about \$18 a day.

The Straight program in Plymouth started in January.

The 15-year-old Perkins said the program has helped her. She said she has returned to Huron High School in Ann Arbor and no longer uses drugs. "I can't say what's going to happen in the future, but I know that right now I can say no" to drugs, she said.

Those seeking information or treatment in Michigan can call 313-453-2610 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Straight, Inc. National, Corporate Office
3001 Gandy Blvd., St Petersburg, FL 33702
(813) 576-8929

FAX COVER SHEET

Deliver to:

Ms Ann Brock

From:

Ms Joy Mangolis

Comments:

Date:

2/19/92

Time:

This is page one of 6 pages.

If you do not receive all pages, call:

Straight, Inc.
(813) 576-8929

Fax No. 813-576-5635

STRAIGHT

Bernadine E. Braithwaite
National Executive Director

February 19, 1992

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Ms. Ann Brock
Director of Scheduling for Mrs. Bush
East Wing Second Floor
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Brock:

It was a pleasure to speak with you today regarding arranging a date for Mrs. Bush to visit the Straight treatment program in Tampa Bay. As I mentioned in our conversation, Mrs. Bush had very generously volunteered to visit Straight when she met with Ambassador and Mrs. Sembler in Australia.

I have sent materials describing the Straight program under separate cover. However, since both President and Mrs. Bush have visited the Straight program and President Bush made a videotaped public service announcement praising Straight, they are already very familiar with Straight.

I have attached a brief summary describing the treatment program, and I have also enclosed information about two Straight volunteers - Mr. and Mrs. Terry Brimmer - who were named "Daily Points of Light" by President Bush just last month. Mr. and Mrs. Brimmer are active volunteers in the Tampa Bay program.

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

National Corporate Office

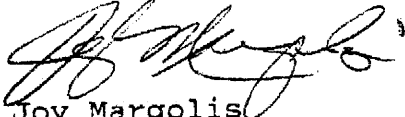
Straight, Inc. 3001 Gandy Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 (813) 576-8929 FAX (813) 576-5635

A family oriented treatment program for drug using young people.

Ms. Ann Brock
February 19, 1992
Page Two

Once again, Ms. Brock, I look forward to hearing from you regarding the arrangement of a future date for Mrs. Bush to visit Straight.

Sincerely,



Joy Margolis
Vice President
Public Affairs

JM/klf
Enclosures

c: Mrs. Bernadine Braithwaite
Mrs. Betty Sembler

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

The Adolescent Drug Treatment Program That Works



STRAIGHT is a nonprofit family-oriented treatment program for drug using adolescents and their families. Robert L. DuPont, M.D., the founding director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, has praised the STRAIGHT program as "the best in the country."

STRAIGHT is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The JCAHO has been accrediting healthcare facilities for more than three decades and is recognized as the nation's leading accreditational organization. Accreditation by this prestigious organization is an honor which reflects that STRAIGHT meets the highest standards for professional patient healthcare.

The STRAIGHT treatment program is based on a philosophy of peer support; kids helping kids, parents helping parents, and families helping families under the supervision of trained professionals. The treatment objective is the revitalization of the young person and the family. STRAIGHT helps people recapture a productive, meaningful, and drug free life.

STRAIGHT conducts parent and sibling sessions in addition to individual and family counseling. One result of the STRAIGHT program is that 92% of the brothers and sisters of young people who participate in the treatment program never become involved with drugs. STRAIGHT has intervened and educated these siblings, while helping the child with the substance abuse problem. The best form of prevention is intervention.

STRAIGHT has received acclaim for the positive use of peer support in creating a drug free lifestyle. Based on the premise that peer pressure is responsible for their involvement with drugs, STRAIGHT uses supervised peer pressure to help young people get off and stay off drugs.

As evidence of its success, over 70% of STRAIGHT graduates remain drug-free following treatment.

Although not an inpatient facility, STRAIGHT conducts an intense daily schedule of therapeutic sessions which include the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Young people progress through the Five Phases of the treatment program.

The Five Phases

Young people progress through the following Five Phases while participating in the STRAIGHT treatment program.

FIRST PHASE is the period immediately after the young person enters the program. They are working on self-concept and developing honesty about using drugs. The adolescent lives with a host family who has a child in an advanced stage of the program.

SECOND PHASE is when the adolescent returns home to begin working on family relationships in addition to developing a positive self-concept.

THIRD PHASE focuses on achievement. The young person returns to the school or work environment and must face old friends and say no to the peer pressure to use drugs.

FOURTH PHASE is the time when the young person begins staged withdrawal from active involvement in the program. They are working on the constructive use of leisure time, developing positive friendships, and engaging in recreational activities with family and friends.

FIFTH PHASE is the final phase when the adolescent has recaptured a well-rounded, drug free lifestyle and concentrates on social responsibility and service to others.

Upon graduating from the Fifth Phase, the young people and their families have access to an Aftercare Program. This program provides a comprehensive six month program for graduates and their families consisting of a continuation of group therapy.

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

STRAIGHT

STRAIGHT, Inc. National Corporate Office 3001 Gandy Boulevard St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813) 576-8929

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT

The President recognizes a "Daily Point of Light" six days a week. Daily Points of Light are those who successfully address our most pressing social problems through direct and consequential acts of community service. Individuals, families, businesses, groups, and organizations of every conceivable type are taking successful action to combat drug abuse, illiteracy, inadequate education, environmental decay, homelessness, hunger, AIDS, and other critical ills.

By reclaiming a drug-plagued, crime-ridden neighborhood, tutoring those who are illiterate, mentoring a troubled young person, befriending a lonely senior citizen, providing housing for the homeless, or protecting our environment, Americans have enriched their communities and, in doing so, have brought meaning and fulfillment to their own lives.

Daily Points of Light recognition is intended not only to honor those who are making a difference in the lives of those in need, but more importantly to urge every individual, family, business, union, school, place of worship, club, group, and other institution in America to make serving others central to their life and work. As the President has said, "If you have a hammer, find a nail. If you know how to read, find someone who can't. If you're not in trouble, seek out someone who is..."

"The growth and magnification of Points of Light must now become an American mission... It is increasingly clear to more and more Americans that our greatest social problems — drugs, education reform, the environment, crime — will be solved only by the active engagement of tens of millions of individuals and millions of groups and institutions who have never been involved before in these problems and who will never be compensated one nickel for their work."

Points of Light demonstrate that problems in America can be solved. The President believes that every American wants to be a Point of Light to those in need, if only they are shown how they can make a difference. We therefore strongly encourage not only every newspaper, magazine, television and radio station, but also every other business, group, and other institution in America, to communicate in their own way the story of Daily Points of Light to the entire Nation.

01/1/92

St. Petersburg couple selected as a presidential Point of Light

By CAROL A. MARBIN
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — A local couple may have finished 1991 uneventfully, but they'll begin 1992 as the nation's 656th "point of light."

Today, President Bush will recognize Susan and Terry Brimmer as a Daily Point of Light for their efforts as volunteers for Straight Inc., a St. Petersburg-based adolescent drug and alcohol program, the White House has announced.

"We're really excited," Susan Brimmer said Tuesday. "The best part is it brings some attention to Straight."

The Brimmers, of 1542 86th Ave. N, became involved with Straight in 1987 when their son became a client of the program. When their son graduated from Straight, the Brimmers continued to volunteer.

"Two of our boys are alive and well today because of Straight," Mrs. Brimmer said, referring to her son and another young man the Brimmers met through Straight. They consider him a family member.

Founded 13 years ago, Straight nationally operates six treatment centers that use confrontational rap sessions and peer-pressure therapy to try to free adolescents from drug dependency. A seventh treatment center, in Dallas, closed this fall.

The Brimmers work in Straight's parent intake program, where they help parents enroll their children

and help parents adjust to the shock of having a child with a drug dependency. And they share their own experiences with other parents during "parent weekends," usually four a year.

The Brimmers were nominated for the award by the St. Petersburg Straight chapter, said Carvel Lewis, staff assistant for the White House's Office of National Service. Susan Brimmer works at Val-Pak, a direct mail company in St. Petersburg. Terry Brimmer is a certified public accountant in Tampa.

Lewis said the service office looks for award recipients who are involved in volunteer work that others can emulate. They were chosen for today because the president wanted to focus on drug and alcohol abuse, and drunken driving, for the New Year's holiday.

"We like to highlight for national recognition the best that Americans are doing, and those things that are most easily replicated," Lewis said.

The White House recognizes one Point of Light each day, Lewis said. The Brimmers will be the 656th Point of Light, an honor that may enable them to meet the president if he comes to the area. They also will receive a personal letter from the president.

In September, the 575 points of light who had been recognized by then were invited to Walt Disney World in Orlando to meet with Bush. The Brimmers would be invited to any similar celebration in the future, Lewis said.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EXEMPTED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1992

December 30, 1991

The President today recognized Susan and Terry Brimmer of St. Petersburg, Florida, as the 656th Daily Point of Light for the Nation. Mr. and Mrs. Brimmer, 48 and 44, devote their time to helping adolescents who suffer from substance and alcohol abuse.

In 1987, the Brimmers became involved with Straight, a program for teens who are drug/alcohol abusers and their families when their son became a client. After their son's graduation from Straight, the Brimmers continued to volunteer over 15 hours a week with both parents and children.

Through the "Parent Intake" program, the Brimmers help parents enroll their child in the Straight program and adjust to the shock of having a child with drug and/or alcohol addictions. They share their own experiences with other parents during "Parent Weekends" which usually occur four times a year and "Awareness Rap" sessions where they encourage parents to be directly engaged in their child's recovery.

Since many teens who participate in Straight are from other cities, volunteer "host families" take children into their homes for the duration of the program, which usually lasts at least one year. The Brimmers have hosted over 76 children in 14 months. They have legally adopted one of the boys who stayed at their home during his recovery. After the children graduate from the Straight program and move away, the Brimmers still keep in touch with them and see them often.

Mr. Brimmer drives patients to outside support meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous once a week. He often treats them to bowling, a movie, or dinner either before or after their meetings. The Brimmers and the teens they help are dedicated to increasing public awareness of drug and alcohol abuse among teens and they participate in speaking engagements where they discuss prevention, signs of abuse, and their experiences with the Straight program from both the parent's and child's perspectives.

The President salutes Susan and Terry Brimmer for exemplifying his belief that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

#

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Miah Homstad
(202) 456-6266

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy