

## DRUG PROGRAM DEFENDED

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Editor, The Record:

We were saddened to read in The Record of July 27 that a group of people called RAID (Residents Against Indiscriminate Development) have launched an attack against an extremely effective drug-treatment program, KIDS (Kids of Bergen County).

KIDS has saved the life of our son. Like many young people in Bergen County who have drug and alcohol problems, our son kept his problems so well concealed that it was only in the fifth year of his chemical dependency that we became aware of his condition. Outwardly, he seemed happy and highly motivated, and he won an award from The Record for his athletic prowess.

Now we know that he was on the verge of suicide when he voluntarily signed himself into the KIDS program. Today, he is well on the way to winning his battle. He is experiencing a happiness that he thought was unavailable to him.

We have learned through bitter experience that an affordable treatment program that can match the KIDS high level of excellence and competence is simply not available.

Of course, KIDS is not for everyone because it demands a degree of total commitment and uncompromising sacrifice by the entire family. Not all parents can or are willing to do so.

RAID, in its attack on KIDS, has ruthlessly resorted to using an antiquated and actually unconstitutional town ordinance to harass parents of some KIDS clients. In a trial presided over by Judge Harry H. Chandless Jr. in Hasbrouck Heights, there were strong indications of racial hatred and bigotry, as well as a profound ignorance of the nature of the disease of chemical dependency. We believe Judge Chandless verdict is likely to be overturned because of his biased behavior, which also ignored important civil rights and common decency.

All the members of RAID were invited to attend an educational meeting to learn about the KIDS program and why its record of success is the envy of competitive establishments that charge 20 times more than KIDS charges. They refused.

SIDNEY, IRENE GOODMAN

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