

## PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF KIDS

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Editor, The Record:

I wish to share our gratitude for our son's recovery from drugs and alcohol through KIDS of Bergen County. We asked for help from the school drug counselor because we did not understand our son's behavior. We were told that he was using drugs and "He wasn't that bad." On the advice of the counselor, we placed him in a 45-day treatment program. He lost his sobriety within 36-hours of his release and we knew then that he needed a lot more than that type of treatment.

My son has successfully completed KIDS and has a 31-month record of sobriety. He is attending college full time and is achieving honor credits in all of his courses. He also helps us in our business and works part-time for someone else. He has become the child we had before his drug use kind, considerate, and loving. We are very proud of him.

We became a host home so that my son could share his experience with other young men. These young people are becoming productive citizens of our communities and it is not costing the taxpayers one cent in public funding to reach this goal.

ARLENE ETGEN

BOB ETGEN

Cream Ridge

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Editor, The Record:

I must say that I am appalled at the attitude that the townspeople of Hasbrouck Heights have shown toward the family that has given of their time, love, and hospitality to keep other people's children, as well as their own, to recover from their drug dependency.

I have had a son go through the KIDS program and I had "newcomers" in my home for many, many months. These children are like any other normal kids and were always very well-behaved and polite because they were off drugs. They spend their time in these host homes, learning from their host families, how to live and get along with their families, so that they can later return to their own families and continue their recovery. If there were more people willing to make this commitment, we wouldn't have the epidemic of drug use that we have in every town. These families should be commended for their support and care.

BARBARA KOZAKIEWICZ

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