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## First Lady Spotlights Teen Drug Programs

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Nancy Reagan is off Monday on a two-day trip to Florida and Texas to spotlight efforts to stop children and teenagers from "wasting their whole life" on drugs.

She will visit an elementary school in St. Petersburg, Fla., that tries to catch children before they start on drugs and a total immersion program for teenagers whose Atlanta branch was the subject of a recently dropped lawsuit.

Tuesday, she flies to Dallas to meet with the Texans' War on Drugs Committee, and with a parents' anti-drug group in the suburbs.

In keeping with Reagan administration attempts to promote volunteerism, only one program she will visit receives any public money.

White House aides said Mrs. Reagan is making the trip to learn about drug programs, to draw attention to efforts that help adolescents, not just hard-core drug users, and to promote family involvement.

"I hope it draws attention to the real problem that exists out there ... and encourage parents that they can be of help," Mrs. Reagan said in a recent Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. interview.

"It just kills me to think that these young children are wasting their whole life, and it's a life that — you know, we only make this trip once," Mrs. Reagan said. "We're in danger of losing a whole generation of kids to this."

The trip is only her second major trip outside Washington since last summer's royal wedding, and her first two-state trip promoting drug programs.

There were indications the White House hoped to underscore Mrs. Reagan's interest in drug programs and draw the spotlight away from recent accounts of her designer clothes and purchase of new White House china.

Accompanying the first lady will be Carlton Turner, the White House drug adviser, whose previous career at the University of Mississippi pharmaceutical school included raising the marijuana used in government research.

Her first stop will be Pinellas Park Elementary School in St. Petersburg where she will visit one of 10 ALPHA drug programs in Florida, which offer special classes for preteens showing signs of future problems. She then visits Straight Inc., a behavior modification program for teenagers that includes patriotic song-singing and emotional encounter sessions.

In January, the American Civil Liberties Union claimed five teenagers in Straight's Atlanta branch were being held against their will. Two cases were thrown out and the rest were dropped in return for formation of an independent panel to monitor complaints about Straight.

A White House aide said Mrs. Reagan's visit was not an endorsement of a particular program. "She does not seek to endorse. She seeks to support."

In Texas, she will have lunch with the Texans' War on Drugs Committee, a privately funded group that won passage of tough anti-drug laws, including one outlawing "head shops" and drug paraphernalia.

She also meets Richardson Families in Action, a 250-family group in a Dallas suburb involved in lobbying and education.