

## Families United: Helping Families in Despair

Like many grandparents today, Marie\* has been the parent to her grandson, Jason, for many years. Jason's mother gave birth to him when she was still a teenager and couldn't cope with the overwhelming responsibility of being a parent. She left when he was 18 months old and Marie helped her son care for the toddler. When Jason\* was 14, his father unexpectedly had a massive heart attack and died. Marie became Jason's lone source of support.

Understandably, Jason was left reeling by the death of his father, and even though Marie did the best she could, as he got older he became increasingly angry and self-destructive. He fell in with a bad crowd at school and began abusing drugs and alcohol. By the time he turned 19, he had a serious heroin addiction and was stealing to support his habit.

Marie, with no family support, was devastated and having trouble functioning. Jason's problem began consuming her life. She worried about him all the time. Would he be arrested? Would he overdose? Would he be killed over drugs? She was heartbroken, frustrated, embarrassed and confused.

One day, one of Marie's friends told her about Families United, a program of The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources that offers education and support to families who are concerned about their children's alcohol or drug use. Marie's friends began taking her to the group meetings and soon noticed Marie was gaining confidence and strength. She was learning what she should and should

not do for both Jason and herself. She learned what to believe and not to believe and the typical ways an addict manipulates those closest to him. Marie is grateful for the compassion and support the group has given her, as well as the knowledge about addiction she has gleaned that helps her better handle her sad and difficult situation.

Marie recently wrote to The Center expressing her appreciation for the program. "I can't begin to tell you how much this program has helped me in dealing with my grandson's drug addiction. It has made me a stronger person and encourages me to keep myself well. Yet, there is still so much for me to learn. I was attending another help program but decided to leave because I was getting nothing out of it. To put an end to this program would mean an end to myself – and everyone else attending Families United – eventually finding peace and serenity."

**People like me who are going through a devastating time with their loved ones are being helped by Families United. They have an outlet for their hurt, fear and frustration.**

Families United is funded entirely by philanthropy. The agency is trying to raise \$5,000 to keep this vital program going

for one year. Please help us continue delivering this support to families who are reeling from their loved one's substance abuse by making a donation today. Be sure to indicate "Families United" on your donation. Please visit [www.tcadr.org](http://www.tcadr.org) or call 201.488.8680. Thank you!

\*Name changed to protect client's identity.



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