



## Families Against Narcotics

Your **connection** for information, resources, and support.

**Mission:** *To empower communities through education and recovery services that enhance the quality of life and health of all family members.*

**Vision:** *To promote a healthy community by reducing stigma and providing a comprehensive continuum of care that empowers individuals and families.*

**Purpose:** *Support all individuals affected by the disease of addiction/substance use disorder. Destigmatize the disease of substance use disorder. Provide education and resources to the communities we serve.*

As our local communities battle an opioid crisis that has gripped our entire nation, Families Against Narcotics (FAN)—a grassroots organization founded in 2007 and based in Macomb County, Michigan—continues to work tirelessly to educate young adults, students, school personnel, parents, law enforcement, judges, doctors, and other health care professionals about the dangers of prescription drug misuse and addiction. By doing so, we are able to help reduce the number of people who become addicted and, subsequently, save lives. FAN offers numerous support services for people who are struggling with or affected by addiction, and all of them are provided *completely free of charge*.

**Education & Prevention:** FAN believes that education is crucial to prevention, which in turn is crucial to reducing the number of people affected by addiction and erasing the stigma that is associated with the disease. In addition to the monthly meetings that our 20+ Michigan chapters offer, FAN also presents to hundreds of schools, universities, and institutions across the state and nationwide.

**Monthly Forum Meetings:** FAN chapters have a monthly FAN Forum meeting, where attendees get a chance to increase their knowledge of addiction and enjoy fellowship with people in similar situations. The meetings frequently feature guest speakers or panel discussions that address issues related to addiction and recovery. Family and friends of addicted loved ones, persons in recovery, community leaders, treatment professionals, and all interested community members are welcome.

**Hope Not Handcuffs:** Launched in February of 2017, Hope Not Handcuffs brings law enforcement and community organizations together in an effort to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce their dependency on prescription drugs, heroin, and alcohol. The concept is simple: Any person who is fighting any kind of addiction can go to any participating police agency and ask for help. They will be greeted with support, compassion, and respect, and one of FAN's trained "Angels" will guide them through a brief intake process and help them get the treatment they need. Since its inception, the Hope Not Handcuffs initiative has helped place more than 6,200 individuals into treatment, giving them a legitimate chance at finding recovery. Hope and Healing is a newer, hospital-based version of Hope Not Handcuffs. It allows people admitted to the hospital or ER due to an overdose the opportunity to seek help, by either calling an 800 number or filling out an online assessment.

**Peer Recovery Coaching:** Peer Recovery Coaches (PRCs) help people who are fighting substance use disorder (SUD) or are new to recovery. PRCs are men and women in long-term recovery who have completed state-certified training, and their experience and knowledge can help guide others and keep them on the right path. Talking to someone who knows exactly what they're going through can greatly improve a person's chance for recovery success.

**Family Recovery Coaching:** Family Recovery Coaches (FRCs) are similar to PRCs, but their purpose is to educate and coach those who have been affected by a loved one's addiction. Addiction is a family disease, and everyone who is touched by it has to work on their own recovery. FRCs can help loved ones heal and improve family relationships.

**Naloxone Training:** FAN offers Narcan/naloxone training to both individuals and groups. This training not only teaches people how to properly administer this life-saving drug—which can counter the effects of an opioid overdose—but also provides them with a naloxone kit to take home with them, giving them the ability to save lives in their community.

**Sober Living Scholarships:** Transitioning from treatment to a sober way of life can be incredibly challenging, so sober living houses are a valuable resource for those who are new to recovery. The sober living environment, structure, and community provided by these homes can make the transition much easier and improve the odds for long-term recovery. Because of this, FAN offers sober living scholarships to people who are being discharged from treatment and need initial financial assistance. This allows the recipient to focus on their recovery and finding employment, instead of worrying about finances as they move into sober living.

**COMEBACK Quick Response Team (QRT):** The COMEBACK QRT was launched in February of 2020 as a pilot program in collaboration with the Sterling Heights Police Department. It offers education, treatment, and recovery options to individuals (and their families) who are struggling with addiction and have experienced a non-fatal overdose. A community-based team consisting of a police officer, certified peer recovery coach, and certified family recovery coach perform outreach to these individuals at their homes, treating them with the compassion and

empathy they deserve. FAN has since expanded this program into a total of 17 law enforcement agencies across the state.

***Stronger Together:*** Stronger Together is an addiction support group for family and friends of people struggling with addiction. Addiction is a family disease that impacts all family members—not just the person with the substance use disorder. That’s why everyone in the family needs to work on their own recovery. Stronger Together includes a unique 12-step Family Recovery Plan, and offers both an online discussion series and in-person meetings to provide compassion, support, and healing to those who need it.

***HARM:LESS:*** HARM:LESS is a new harm reduction initiative of Families Against Narcotics. It focuses on reducing the negative consequences associated with substance use disorder and, first and foremost, saving lives. Our HARM:LESS Support Team members meet people where they're at—in parks, on the street, etc.—and help connect them with the essentials they need to stay safe, healthy, relatively comfortable...and *alive*. Things like hygiene products, safe use supplies, Narcan, clothing, and more. If an individual wants to go to treatment, the HARM:LESS team can place them. But even if someone isn't ready for treatment, HARM:LESS lets them know that they still matter, and that the team cares about them.