

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, recreational drugs, 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 a substance use disorder, 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 multiple 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 substance use disorder can go to any participating police agency or community partner—of which there are more than 125 in Michigan—and ask for help. They will be greeted with compassion and respect, and one of FAN's trained volunteer "Angels" will meet them to provide support and work with the FAN Call Center to help them get placed into treatment. Since its inception, the

Hope Not Handcuffs initiative has connected individuals to recovery resources more than 10,400 times, giving them a legitimate chance to find recovery. Hope and Healing is a newer, hospital-based version of Hope Not Handcuffs. It allows hospital patients who are struggling with a substance use disorder 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 should work on their own recovery. FRCs can help loved ones heal and improve family relationships.

Naloxone Training: FAN offers Narcan/naloxone training to 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, giving them the ability to save lives in their community. Trainings are held both in-person and virtually.

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 either experienced a non-fatal overdose or have had contact with law enforcement as a result of their substance use. A community-based team consisting of a plainclothes 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 more than 20 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 should work on their own recovery. Stronger Together includes a unique 12-step Family

Recovery Plan, and offers both virtual and in-person meetings to provide compassion, support, and healing to those who need it. There are also special groups for grandparents and spouses/partners, as well as grief groups for those who have lost a loved one to addiction.

HARM:LESS: HARM:LESS is a 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 and their mobile unit 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, fentanyl test kits, and health care via the Macomb County Street Medicine team. 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.

REDIRECT: FAN's newest program operates in partnership with the Macomb County Prosecutor's office and aims to reduce the number of drug overdoses, assist people with getting into treatment for their addiction, lower drug-related crime, and improve the relationship between law enforcement and the community. REDIRECT's design is similar to Hope Not Handcuffs in that it provides a continuum of care to ensure participants get the treatment, support, and ongoing connection they need to stay sober. Potential participants are initially identified by police officers, who then recommend to a special prosecutor that the individual be allowed to enroll in the REDIRECT program, rather than face legal consequences. FAN then provides essential resources, including Peer and Family Recovery Coaches, access to sober living, and help preparing for and finding employment. Complying with REDIRECT protocols for one year results in the individual's case being dismissed.