



As a parent/educator/coach for the past 30+ years Jim Marshall has impacted more lives than he can count. He speaks to not only students but to parents and other adults about the death of his son, Cody and how they too can help others seek help with drug addiction. His presentation gives up to date statistics on substance misuse in Missouri as well as the signs to recognize when a person is becoming dependent on drugs. Jim believes that lack of knowledge and information on the prevalence of drug misuse amongst our youth has contributed to the poor choices made by our youth. Every adult needs to be informed and Jim can deliver the truth very profoundly.

Here are some of the statistics addressed in Jim's presentation:

- 30 percent of all teens suffer from clinical depression or PTSD before high school graduation.
- Suicide and substance misuse has increased 70 percent the last ten years.
- A person (primarily 18–25) dies of an overdose every 8 minutes.
- Every 15 minutes a child is born with neonatal opioid issues.
- 10 percent of teenagers have parents who suffer from addiction.
- One out of every three families have a family member with addiction.
- 6 million grand families exist due to the opioid epidemic. (Grandparents raising grandchildren)
- 1 out of 3 teens suffer severe depression before graduation.



The goals of Jim's presentation are:

- Raise the level of knowledge on depression, anxiety, stress, coping skills, self-medication, substance use dangers.
- To create dialogue between student and parent, student and counselor or teacher, and student to student after they have heard the presentation.
- To help students understand addiction issues and recovery so they view those with this disease in a different light.
- To destigmatize mental health issues and addiction so our youth are more inclined to ask for help or view family members in a more positive light.

Jim tells students and parents, "Knowledge is power, ignorance is the opposite". As we gain more correct knowledge, we make better choices and become less judgmental. Our youth need to understand they control their choices but not the consequences. Studies show that if our youth do not misuse a substance before age 18, there is an 80 percent chance they will never develop an addiction. Just as Drivers Education diminishes fatality rates of our youth, so too does abstinence from substance misuse through prevention.