



Education and Prevention

A Partnership to Address the Addiction
Crisis



St. Eugene Parish
Primos
and
Mercy Fitzgerald
Hospital
Darby





Why this partnership and commitment?

- ❖ Based on the 2016 Community Needs Assessment and supporting data, the opioid crisis, pushed behavioral health issues to the top of the needs list in DELCO
- ❖ Both St. Eugene Parish, where S Betty Burke, MSN, RSN is the Parish Nurse, as well as Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital sit in the middle of the crisis area
- ❖ As a team, representing both the church and the hospital, we attended the Town Hall held in Clifton Heights last Spring by the Narcotics Task Force and the area political representatives
- ❖ We felt a responsibility to address the problem
- ❖ We learned about a new and different program, “Lessons In Mercy” and for us, this fit our mission
- ❖ We immediately scheduled the series to extend through the summer months



Lessons in Mercy

A Christian Reflection on Addictions

Please join Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital and St. Eugene Parish for an event to educate, raise awareness and bring healing and hope around the problem of addiction. Learn how substances affect the body and mind with discussion about dependence, tolerance, relapse and denial, and the numerous options available for recovery. The session will be led by Nina Marie Corona, MA, CRS, a SMART Recovery Facilitator and member of several counseling and addiction recovery organizations.

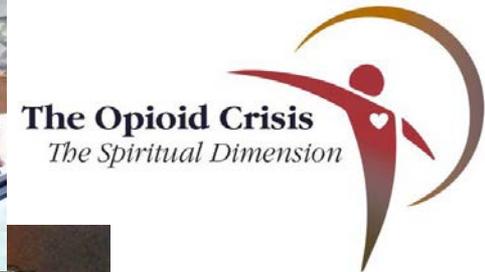




Step One: Lessons in Mercy

“This is a disease, let’s get rid of the stigma”

- ❖ This was a 4 week series, each week a 2 hour session led by Nina Corona, a SMART Recovery Specialist who addressed addiction holistically examining the bio-psycho-social-spiritual dimensions of the disease
- ❖ Designed for caregivers, family members, friends, professionals and addicted persons
- ❖ The goal was to look at addiction as a disease of the body, mind and spirit that affects the afflicted, those who love them and the community at large
- ❖ The program reached 75 people from the DELCO community
- ❖ Feedback from the group led us to establish an **ongoing bi-monthly support group** and a **program to address prevention** with elementary school age children





Step Two: “PREVENT”

A program to address addiction with elementary school students

- ❖ A partnership to prevent teen opioid addiction in Delaware County began between St. Eugene’s and Mercy with a pilot five month prevention program called “PREVENT” which ran from January to May 2018
- ❖ The eighth grade class was the target audience
- ❖ After an initial kick-off dinner meeting with parents in early January, monthly sessions began at the end of the month with the students
- ❖ Sessions were structured to provide topic content and then interaction with a young person in recovery
- ❖ Content topics focused on issues that face teenagers and could help push them toward relying on substances



PREVENT



The “PREVENT” Program

- ❖ Topics included: what is addiction, bullying, use of social media, suicide ideation, peer pressure and situations that can lead to depression
- ❖ The Delaware County NOPE program was presented at the end of the series
- ❖ Notes were sent home after each session so parents could do follow-up dialogue with their children

What did we learn?

- ❖ Parents were unaware of what their children knew about addiction and the need for this program
- ❖ The monthly discussions confirmed the need at that age and younger
- ❖ It is our hope to continue this program at St. Eugene’s going forward and to be able to expand it to other schools in the communities in which we serve



We Need Your Support



Please support legislation that will help us continue programs like this!