



About NACoA...

The people hurt most by alcohol and drugs don't even use them; they are the CHILDREN of addicted parents. NACoA believes that none of these vulnerable children should grow up in isolation and without support and works to bring hope and help to them. NACoA is the national nonprofit membership and affiliate organization working on behalf of children of alcohol and drug dependent parents. Its mission is to eliminate the adverse impact of alcohol and drug use on children and families. In a word, NACoA helps kids that are hurt by parental alcohol and drug use.

Facts about alcohol and other drug dependencies...

- Affects some 43 percent of American families
- Severely disrupts family life
- Hinders children's physical, emotional, and intellectual development
- Runs in families, thereby harming future generations

Children in families with alcohol and other drug dependencies:

- Are more likely to develop alcoholism or drug dependencies themselves
- Have more physical and mental health problems than other children
- Incur higher health care costs
- Are vulnerable to violence and child abuse
- Often have difficulties in school and other areas of life

Backed by the leading experts in the field, NACoA:

- Works to raise public awareness
- Provides leadership in public policy at the national, state, and local levels
- Advocates for appropriate, effective and accessible education and prevention services
- Facilitates and advances professional knowledge and understanding

To do this, NACoA:

- Works with teachers, physicians, clergy, and community coalitions to develop specific tools to provide hope and support to children affected by alcoholism in their families
- Partners with federal agencies and other national child advocacy organizations to develop programs and products that can directly help children of alcoholic parents
- Has affiliate organizations throughout the country, and Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Poland and New Zealand
- Publishes periodic print and electronic newsletters
- Creates videos, booklets, posters and other educational materials to assist natural helpers to intervene and support these children
- Hosts a website with information about children of alcoholics and other drug dependent parents and tools to help them
- Distributes information to all who ask

National Association for Children of Alcoholics

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Why NACoA?

It was the leadership and wisdom of NACoA staff that brought student assistance and the extraordinary Children's Program Kit to our school district. As the director of Instructional Services, I supported many dedicated staff who presented information and support to thousands of kids. Compared to school district averages, these kids ended up with better grades, better attendance and many more of them graduated high school.

(Catherine L. Herzog, PhD, MSW)

In 2014-2015 — NACoA:

- Enhanced and expanded *Celebrating Families!*[™] — the powerful five volume evidence-based curriculum, and distributed it to over 100 sites across the country, trained over 300 group facilitators in 2-day on-site workshops, created and began training for the 0-3 component, and developed a partnership with The Wellbriety Movement, which is now offering the program to Native American sites.
- Updated and enhanced, for SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the *Children's Program Kit*, a comprehensive support group program tool, already distributed to over 150,000 schools and prevention and treatment programs. The new expanded version will be released in time for COA Awareness Week in February 2016.
- Provided a one-week intensive training for two leaders from Sweden to use the *Children's Program Kit*, which they have translated; they returned to Sweden and are training teams to provide the program in agencies across that country.
- Provided training to over 2000 clergy, other pastoral leaders and interested faith community supporters in two webinar series (total of 16) featuring outstanding authorities in addictions and family recovery.
- Distributed 400+ copies of our comprehensive course manual (*Spiritual Caregiving for Addicted Persons and their Family Members*), free of charge, to those who will use it to do continuing education programs for faith leaders and other interested persons.
- Continued on-line educational courses and developed an expanded training section to be hosted on our new website.
- Hosted the annual international COA Awareness Week education campaign, in February.
- Continued 24-hour toll-free line for those calling for information and referral to help.
- Welcomed new affiliates, including two in New Zealand — NACoA New Zealand and Familial Trust.

NACoA creates these evidence-based programs and provides the training to assist natural helpers - teachers, clergy, pediatricians, neighbors, concerned parents, social workers, and grandparents - to support the silent but hurting children they encounter every day. Our rapidly expanding social media communications, designed for all ages, are reaching the children and families looking for answers in greater numbers each day. Our large group of national authorities and experienced professionals provide their expertise freely to support NACoA's critical work to be a VOICE for the 18.25 million children 17 and under in our country still trapped in chaotic, confusing homes.

You helped my hurt and confusion melt away. (10 year-old girl)



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