



As our local communities continue battling an opioid crisis that has gripped the entire nation, Families Against Narcotics (FAN)—a grassroots organization founded in 2007 and based in Macomb County, Michigan—keeps working tirelessly to fulfill our mission: To compassionately assist individuals and families affected by substance use disorder. We do this by offering a continuum of care consisting of community- and evidence-based programs and services. Our programming not only helps change and save lives, but also instills hope while striving to erase the stigma that still surrounds substance use disorder. All of our programs and services are provided *completely free of charge*.

Education: FAN believes that education is crucial to prevention, which in turn is crucial to reducing the number of people affected by addiction and dispelling the stigma that is associated with the disease. We have presented to hundreds of schools, universities, and institutions across the state and nationwide. By educating students, school personnel, parents, law enforcement, judges, doctors, and other health care professionals about the dangers of prescription drug misuse, recreational drugs, and addiction, we are making a difference.

Prevention: In an effort to expand our impact with young people, Families Against Narcotics is launching an adolescent-focused initiative aimed at prevention and understanding the stigmatization of substance use disorder, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of empathy. The newly developed **Up2U** program targets 5th- and 6th-grade students, offering them tools for making healthy decisions under pressure. This innovative program collaborates with law enforcement and community-based organizations to deliver 10 lessons throughout the school year. FAN is also rolling out a high school program centered around a graphic novel. This narrative captures the struggles of a young individual facing addiction, shedding light on the diverse experiences of those around them—whether it be peer pressure or a loved one also struggling with substance use. The program incorporates real-life stories to educate and build empathy, and features an interactive curriculum equipped with click-and-play lessons and testimonial videos from young people in recovery. The overall goal is to encourage young individuals to seek help sooner rather than later, arming them with the resources they need for a healthier future.

Monthly Forum Meetings: FAN chapters hold a monthly FAN Forum meeting, where attendees get a chance to increase their knowledge of addiction- or recovery-related topics and enjoy fellowship with people in similar situations. The meetings, which frequently feature guest speakers or panel discussions, are open to all interested community members, including family and friends of addicted loved ones, persons in or seeking recovery, community leaders, and treatment professionals

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 for their drug or alcohol addiction. The concept is simple: Anyone who is fighting any kind of substance use disorder (SUD) can go to any participating police agency or community partner—of which there are more than 130 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. Hope Not Handcuffs can also be accessed via FAN’s Hope Line (833.202.HOPE). Since its inception, the Hope Not Handcuffs initiative has connected individuals to recovery resources more than 10,500 times, giving them a legitimate chance to find recovery.

Hope & Healing: Hope & Healing is a hospital-based version of Hope Not Handcuffs that aims to bring community organizations together to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help for any substance use disorders. It allows hospital patients to be connected with substance use care prior to their discharge by either calling FAN'S Hope Line or filling out an online assessment.

Peer Recovery Coaching: Peer Recovery Coaches (PRCs) help people who are fighting substance use disorder 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 chances 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 reverse the effects of an opioid overdose—but also provides them with a naloxone kit, giving them the ability to save a life at home or 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 homes are a valuable resource for those who are new to recovery.

The sober living environment, structure, and community provided by these houses can make the transition much easier and improve the odds for long-term recovery. That's why 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 soon 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. The COMEBACK program is now active in 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, spouses/partners, and young adults, 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—both figuratively and literally—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: The ReDirect program operates in partnership with law enforcement and prosecutors 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 ensures that participants get the treatment, support, and ongoing connection they need to stay sober. Potential candidates for the program are initially identified by police officers, who then recommend to a special prosecutor that the individual be allowed to enroll in the ReDirect program instead of facing 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.

Recovery-Oriented Services: FAN offers a variety of services that provide a multi-faceted approach to addiction recovery. Among them is **Hope Heroes**, a peer-led recovery group that provides support, community, education, and fun for those who are living sober lives. We do not want your journey to stop after treatment! We also host **Yoga for Recovery** classes at multiple locations as a holistic approach to wellness aimed at integrating the body and mind as part of the healing process. Our most recent initiative is a peer-led **Dharma Recovery Group**, which focuses on mindfulness and spiritual practices as additional avenues for achieving and maintaining recovery. These diverse offerings reflect FAN's commitment to catering to the unique needs of their community.

Mindset (Outpatient Services): FAN's outpatient services program offers transformative healing and support for those battling substance use disorder. Mindset provides one-on-one sessions with licensed Master's-level social workers, specifically designed to equip patients with the tools essential for long-term recovery. Specialized group sessions are also available, to help foster a supportive community that can assist individuals and families with reconstructing lives filled with hope and resilience.