

A Resource for the Community

Since 1980, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. has been a valuable source of information regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. This information is provided through the agency's many services, and in particular, the Resource Center.

The Jason Surks Memorial Prevention Resource Center houses thousands of free brochures, pamphlets, and other educational material on issues related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Topics range from addiction to workplace issues, and cover all age ranges. There are specific titles for teens, parents, young children, older adults, employers, and more. Most materials are available in large quantities for health fairs, educational programs, or general distribution.

Reference materials are also available at the Center. Whether you are a student doing research for a paper, a teacher preparing a lesson, or a Municipal Alliance working on a needs assessment, you will find what you need in the form of reports, statistics, and other documentation.

The Center also maintains a video lending library containing more than 200 video tapes. These also range in topics for various audiences from children to older adults. Videos can be borrowed for one week.

Call NCADD at 732-254-3344 to request a current catalog or to reserve a video.

Prescription Drug Abuse Facts

- Recent data indicates that prescription drug abuse, particularly of opioid pain killers, has increased at an alarming rate over the last ten years;
- The number of Americans who abuse over the counter (OTC) and prescription drugs has nearly doubled from 7.8 million to 15.1 million between 1992 and 2003, and abuse among teens has more than tripled during that time;
- The number of 12 to 17 year olds who abuse OTC and controlled prescription drugs jumped 212 percent from 1992 to 2003;
- Emergency room visits resulting from narcotic pain reliever abuse have increased 163 percent since 1995; and
- 63 percent of youth who used prescription drugs non-medically in the past year had also used marijuana in the past year.



National Council on Alcoholism and Drug
Dependence (NCADD)
of Middlesex County, Inc.
152 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
732-254-3344
Fax: 732-254-4224
www.ncadd-middlesex.org

Hours
Monday – Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
or by appointment

Jason Surks Memorial Prevention Resource Center

Valuable information regarding
alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs





On August 22, 2004, a small, but important piece of the world was dedicated in memory of Jason Surks. A stranger to most of you. An acquaintance to some. A friend to others. A precious part of life to his family. While it may seem logical to have a Resource Center named in memory of someone who's life was lost to the abuse of drugs, to his family he was, and is, just our little boy. We are honored that his name will bring added value to this facility.

Jason was a person that people gravitated towards. He was good looking and smart and humorous.

He had a Buddy List a mile long and a cell phone bill that required a part-time job. He adored his long time girlfriend and she adored him. I suspect that there were a number of girls that envied her. I told him often that he had a social life that I only dreamed of when I was his age.

Jason grew up in a happy and enriching environment. He had almost all the "necessities" of a twenty first century teenager, from boomboxes to bling. So

what went wrong? How did someone on the cusp of manhood, who grew up in the cushion of suburbia, with a strong religious and moral compass, end up having a Resource Center named in his memory?

Jason had an uncanny ability to land, like a cat, on his feet. Whether it was a huge project due at school the next morning or a looming auto insurance bill, Jason seemed to find the tiny bit of daylight to run toward and emerge unscathed.

He somehow managed to overcome what appeared to be the insurmountable. Because of this, we often discussed that while his schoolwork was never stellar, I felt he would find his way in the world and succeed in life. He just had something within him that made life click along seamlessly for him.



This gave him a sense of invincibility. That, coupled with a lack of appreciation of risk, gave Jason what he felt was a Teflon veneer. Jason really did not have a proper gauge with which to measure risk. He thought nothing of walking through the streets of Newark late at night or riding a bus through a dangerous neighborhood.

Jason spent a lot of time on the Internet researching the drugs he considered abusing. That, along with his having dispensed these drugs in the pharmacy in which he worked, gave Jason all the assurance he needed that his dalliances with prescription drugs were totally without risk.

Hopefully, somewhere in this Resource Center that carries his name, others will find the real facts and the real risks associated with these drugs. Hopefully, there is a way to awaken an understanding of those risks in teenagers. Hopefully, no other family will have to find their child memorialized in this way.