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## **Kids Escaping Drugs Receives York Grant**

The York Children's Foundation announces the award of a \$1500.00 grant to the Kids Escaping Drugs Peer Awareness Program.

The Peer Awareness Program brings residents from the Renaissance Campus in West Seneca to speak to students at area middle and high schools about their struggle with drug and alcohol abuse. Through the program, students learn first hand where experimentation with drugs and alcohol can lead. The clients share their personal stories of addiction and the negative consequences of their behavior. The program is offered free of charge to any school that requests it.

The Renaissance Campus is Western New York's only adolescent residential treatment program for chemically dependent teens. The Campus includes 62 in-patient treatment beds. In addition to counseling services, clients enrolled in the three programs continue their education on Campus and benefit from Voc/Ed and Art Therapy programs supported by the Kids Escaping Drugs Campaign.

**The York Children's Foundation in Pittsburgh, PA** is a non profit corporation managed by the casket manufacturer, The York Group Inc., and is dedicated to supporting needy children's organizations across the country. Since it's inception in 1992, the foundation has awarded over \$2.5 million in grants through local funeral homes.

This grant was sponsored by Jim Fretthold of the Fretthold Funeral Home in North Tonawanda. Mr. Fretthold first became interested in sponsoring the KED Peer Awareness Program when he listened to a young man from the program address the Kiwanis Club of the Tonawanda's 9 years ago. "It was one of the best programs our club ever had and we gave the young man a standing ovation" said Fretthold. Since that time, Mr. Fretthold has secured a total of \$16,700 in grants for the KED Peer Awareness Program from the foundation and has appeared twice on the Kids Escaping Drugs Telethon.