



# What is the G.A.P. Network?

Moving from grief to action through advocacy for prevention. Supporting individuals; providing a voice for families; mobilizing communities. We're bridging the gap.

The G.A.P. Network of advocacy groups was formed in response to a public outcry against prescription medication abuse and the heroin epidemic. Members are family engagement advocacy groups, which provide a voice for the thousands of Ohioans impacted by substance abuse - especially the opiate epidemic. The G.A.P. Network provides information, education, advocacy, networking and support to enhance your local efforts.

## Our Mission

**To provide support to families impacted by addiction and take action to create community change.**

Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury death in Ohio. Prescription medication abuse - especially opiate pain killers - has resulted in addiction, increased crime and death. Heroin use is on the rise.

Advocacy groups provide support for those coping with active addiction and loss. Groups play a critical role in changing policies by making it more difficult to obtain illegal prescriptions, improved the reporting system of controlled substances, increased the number of Prescription Drug drop boxes for unused and outdated medications and shut down pill mills.

"So many other coalitions are targeted toward treatment. The G.A.P. Network is the best at providing guidance on advocacy."

- Danielle Smoot  
Cole's Warriors

“Our biggest challenge is a lack of understanding that there is a problem with prescription medication abuse. We have to find ways to educate the community.”

-Amy Seidle  
Brian's Desire/Pickaway County



## The G.A.P. Network

### Our Approach

The G.A.P. Network offers training, technical support and grant opportunities. We can provide technical assistance, information, education, and resources to help your local efforts. Prevention is effective and we can help you make changes in your community through effective strategies.

### Advocacy is Action

Advocacy helps sway public opinion, bolsters community support, creates change. Every advocacy group faces a set of unique challenges within its own community. That's why the G.A.P. Network provides local support, training, resources, networking opportunities and advocacy guidance.

### We're Proud of Your Efforts

If you have advocacy challenges or would like help and support, contact us:

The G.A.P. Network of  
Drug Free Action Alliance  
6155 Huntley Rd. Suite H  
Columbus, OH 43229  
614-540-9985



“The greatest benefit of being part of an advocacy network is that we are recognized as an established group and not just a bunch of angry or hurt parents.”

-Kathy Loos  
SOLACE of Lorain County

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