

Andrey Rossin's Story: Got Involved in NOPE Because of Our "Very Big and Important Mission."

Andrey Rossin oversees a drug treatment center in Delray Beach, Florida. Getting there wasn't easy. He had to become sober, focused and determined to helping many others in recovery as well as helping young people stay clear of drugs.

*For years, Andrey Rossin had been running a successful drug recovery center in Delray Beach, Florida called IntoAction. But he wanted to do more in preventing drug abuse on a wider scale. He said: "More prevention must be rolled out everywhere on all levels and providing this service in schools at an early age saves lives. Even if one kid listens and picks up the phone when he sees a peer being 'rolled eyed,' this is life saving."*

*And so, a few months ago, Andrey became a certified NOPE presenter because what "NOPE does is little talking and lots of action."*

*He described to us his journey in battling drug addiction, staying sober, and focusing his energy on helping others overcome drug dependence and avoiding experimenting with drugs.*

I was born in the former Soviet Union (Minsk, Belarus) and moved to the States in 1995 at the age of 19. At that time, I was an anti-social kid and had definitely experienced the peculiar mental twists of telling myself I have no problem when I really did. I masked it with a happy-go-lucky face, but inside I was a scared, depressed, and suicidal kid.

By 2004-2005, I was a successful Realtor in Miami and led a double-life that really deteriorated to the point of me being completely hopeless. I guess you can say I was in a really dark place when I fell into a coma in 2006 and was on the ventilator for a few days. Prior to that, I had experienced overdoses on more than five occasions and every time walked away from the scene or a medical facility like there was nothing wrong. In reality, every time I got approached and told I needed to get help, I looked at those people like they were wishing me bad luck.

As a result, I went for a 90-day treatment in Delray Beach, Florida, where I met my sponsor. That's where the breakthroughs in my life started.

And that's where the idea of IntoAction began emerging. IntoAction Treatment is a residential adult (18+) coed program focused on substance misuse and mental health. We specialize in individualized work with people who don't see the way out -- even if they verbalize that they do. We offer art therapy, yoga/meditation, cooking, vibro acoustic therapy, and many other holistic activities.

I met (NOPE Executive Director) Karen Perry before I opened my center. I went to a NOPE National Candlelight vigil and it really shook me, as I felt that this is the organization I would love to contribute to. It's very close to me. The fact that I am alive is a sheer miracle, and there is a reason why I am here. I just got certified as a NOPE presenter in December and am in the

process of preparing my index cards so I could start volunteering for the organization and giving back in 2016.

My goal is to stay involved by helping others and, at the same time, keeping myself sober, too.

I love what NOPE does. It's a very big and important mission.

*If you support NOPE's mission, consider making a donation so we can expand our programs and get more speakers like Andrey Rossin. Donate here: [nopetaskforce.org/donations.php](http://nopetaskforce.org/donations.php)*