



NATIONAL CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL  
*Host County Instruction Guide*

**NOPE**

**TASK FORCE**

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*Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education*

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# **NOPE National Candle Light Vigil**



Many lives have been destroyed by substance abuse and the disease of addiction. Too often, this disease is perceived as deserved and shameful, leaving families and friends to grieve in silence or an addict, alone, struggling to recover.

The NOPE Vigil strives to raise awareness and open the doors to recovery by eliminating the prejudice that has followed the disease of addiction; a disease that shows no prejudice to any walk of life or background. With the removal of shame comes the hope for survival. Acceptance of the disease can be humbling to the soul, and, in turn, empowering to those in need to seek help.

Ultimately, by eliminating the prejudice, the tragic loss of life from drug and alcohol related deaths will diminish. The memory of our children, our relatives and our friends, who have passed, will live on in our hearts, forever honored and memorialized. May the dreams they had and the lives they lived be remembered always, and may each heart and soul they have touched, though forever changed, be healed.

# Organizing a Candle Light Vigil

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## Confirm the Date

The NOPE Candle Light Vigil held in memory of those lost to substance abuse and those suffering from the disease of addiction will be held on **Thursday, during Red Ribbon Week in October at 7:00 p.m.**, typically the last Thursday in October. While we hope that your event will coincide with ours, feel free to hold your vigil on any date that is convenient during Red Ribbon Week.



# Host a Community Vigil

Drug overdose death has become an epidemic in our society. With your help, NOPE Task Force plans to address this epidemic and the disease of addiction by hosting Candle Light Vigils across the nation to educate the public on the disease of addiction and remember those lost to a drug related incident. NOPE Task Force aims to partner with county sheriff's offices, substance abuse coalitions, concerned parents and community leaders to host the campaign in their community.

There are three main goals for the awareness campaign, all of which will increase the health and wellness of U.S. citizens.

## **Goals:**

1. Increase attendee's knowledge on the disease of addiction.
2. Provide resources on where to get help for someone that is currently struggling with addiction.
3. Provide a place of healing and remembrance for those that have lost a loved one due to a drug related incident.

Each Candle Light Vigil will be tailored for its area's specific needs; however, each location will have the same general format. Please use this instruction booklet as a guide to help you plan a vigil in your community.

By bringing awareness to the disease of addiction and reducing the stigma associated with it, NOPE believes people will be more likely to seek help for their addiction, which will result in fewer overdose deaths. Through awareness, we can bring healing, hope and life.

# Time Line

## Get Started\*

- form a committee
- secure venue and apply for permits if needed
- secure audio/visual equipment
- invite speakers
- create invitation list
- prepare PR materials
- order candles early!
- create a Memorial Wall
- send families information regarding how to be included on the memorial wall
- distribute flyers and advertise event
- post event on media websites
- secure photographer
- encourage families to go on the NOPE website and submit a photo and story for memorial wall and video. **Deadline for submissions is October 1<sup>st</sup>!**

## One Month Prior

- mail and distribute invitation post cards
- secure volunteers for event
- advertise event
- distribute press release

## One Week Prior

- order refreshments
- host volunteer meeting to prep for day of event and be sure to include someone to run audio/visual
- follow up invitations with phone calls
- prepare, print and fold program
- designate a photographer
- print memorials for the memorial wall

## Day Before Event

- prepare all materials for the event and pack them in transport vehicle

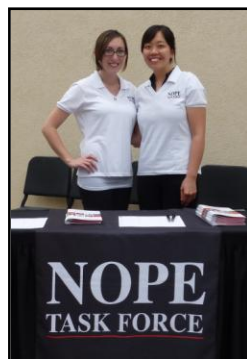
\*Late getting started? Do not be discouraged! With a passionate and aggressive committee, you can plan a simple, successful vigil in only four weeks time.

# Day of Event

**The National Candle Light Vigil is scheduled to begin at 7:00p.m. with candle lighting at 8:15p.m. Fellowship and refreshments may be scheduled prior to event at 6:00pm or following the event at 8:30p.m. Your committee will determine a time frame that works best for your community. Include time of fellowship on all PR materials.**

- 12:00p.m. volunteers arrive at event site
- set up and test audio/visual equipment
- test all videos
- pick-up/deliver refreshments
- deliver all materials to site
- set up refreshment/information booth
- set up and post photos on memorial wall
- if fellowship/refreshments are scheduled at 6:00, request speakers to arrive at 5:00 for a run through
- if fellowship/refreshments follow event, request speakers to arrive at 6:00
- volunteers to greet guests
- volunteers for sign-in/registration
- volunteers to distribute brochures and materials in booth
- volunteers to distribute program and candles
- volunteers to maintain refreshment booth
- volunteers to clean up

**It is very important to have plenty of volunteers available to work the event. This will allow the event chairperson, host and committee members' time to welcome speakers and guests, as well as time to network with attending law enforcement officials, dignitaries and family members!**



# Check List for Organizing a Candle Light Vigil

- **Secure Venue**
  - outdoor park, school gym, church, university, amphitheater
  - fax proposal to event permit office
  - secure event permit
  - provide insurance rider if requested
  
- **Reserve Audio-Video Equipment**
  - screen
  - projector
  - lap top and DVD player
  - microphone
  - sound system
  - podium
  
- **Invite Speakers**
  - Master of Ceremonies – we suggest a local news anchor
  - Keynote – Director Botticelli Video Address (provided)
  - guest speaker- local community leader who can speak on the issues (ex: Sheriff)
  - parent or family members who've lost a loved one to a drug overdose
  - spiritual leader for a non denominational message
  
- **Prepare PR Materials** (tool kit templates provided by NOPE through website)
  - flyers
  - mailing postcards
  - invitation letter
  - program

- **Prepare Invitation List**
  - local politicians, Mayor, Sheriff, School Board, etc.
  - families who've lost loved ones to drug related incidents
  - local treatment facilities, AA and NA Groups
  - law enforcement agencies
  - faith based organizations
  - schools
  
- **Contact local law enforcement agencies to secure police attendance if held in a public place**
  
- **Candles**
  - order candles and drip cups... place order early!
  
- **Memorial Wall**
  - create a memorial wall or designate an area where memorial photos may be displayed
  - NOPE will provide a disc of photos and personal stories for the memorial wall, the vigil host may print the photos on card stock to display
  - NOPE online memorial wall registration will allow any person to participate in the vigil with a memorial photo and story. To add a memorial of a loved one, please go to [www.nopetaskforce.org/memorials-create.php](http://www.nopetaskforce.org/memorials-create.php)
  - photos may also be brought directly to the vigil site on the evening of the event and placed directly on wall
  
- **Refreshments and Information Booth**
  - reserve tents, tables and chairs for an information booth
  - provide refreshments and snacks - purchase or have volunteers provide
  - display organization information
  - display NOPE information (provided)



## ○ **Volunteers**

- committee for planning
- PR - posting flyers, mailings, etc.
- help on the night of event
- coordinate volunteer meeting one week prior to vigil to go over duties for the evening (meeting attendance will give you a good idea which volunteers will show the night of event.)

## ○ **PR**

- post flyers in community centers
- send e-mail to friends, family, co-workers, church and community groups
- send press release to local media
- post event listings on local media sites

## ○ **Gather Contact Information from Attendees**

- including name, address, e-mail or business card if available

## ○ **Document Event with Photographs**



# Form a Committee

The first step to a successful event is forming a committee. Ideally, you should find one person for each of the following positions.

## **Vigil Chairperson**

- oversee the entire event
- assign coordinator positions
- recruit speakers

## **Logistics Coordinator**

- secure the venue
- file necessary paper work for permits
- secure audio/video equipment, supplies, candles, handouts and refreshments

## **Publicity Coordinator**

- advertise for the event
- place ads in newspapers
- contact local radio and television stations

All the templates needed to successfully promote your event are provided in the **"PR Kit,"** which is **distributed electronically after registration.**

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

- recruit volunteers to help prior to and during the event
- distribute job assignments
  - o assistance in advertising
  - o generate attendance
  - o greeters for the event
  - o candle and program distributors
  - o hosting the information table
  - o food/drink servers
  - o set-up and clean-up

## **Fundraising Coordinator**

- Solicit donations to help fund your local event.

# Materials Provided

The following materials will be sent from NOPE digitally when the registration form is completed:

- **Vigil Instruction Guide**
- **Vigil PR Kit** –flyer template, postcard template, dignitary invitation letter template, press release template, program commitment form, agenda template
- **Keynote Video Address** – Director Michael Botticelli, Office of National Drug Control Policy
- **Memorial Wall Photos** - includes all submitted memorial photos and brief story. Host to print and post 8x11½ photos and post on memorial wall.

# Materials Needed

Note: the following list of materials may be used as a guide, not all materials are required to host a successful vigil.

- PA System, Screen, Projector
- Tents for information and refreshment tables
- Candles & Drip Cups
- Memorial Wall for Photos
- Permits (please check to see if venue permit is required)
- Brochures and other information from your local organizations
- Refreshments



# Candle Shopping Guide

**SAN Jose Candle**  
8445A Enterprise Dr.  
Jamestown, Ca 95327  
[www.sanjosecandle.com](http://www.sanjosecandle.com)  
877-984-1729

<b>Safety Cups*</b>			
Item Code	Description	Qty	Price
3008	White Safety Cup	100	\$33.00

**\*Note: Cups will accept candle sizes from 1/2" to 7/8" diameter.**

<b>Candles</b>				
Item Code	Description	Qty/box	Price	Burn Time
2002*	1/2" X 7 1/2"	800	\$136.00	2 Hrs
2005	3/4" X 10 1/2"	265	\$136.00	4 Hrs

**\*These are the smallest usable candles for the cup. The cup should be supported with the fingers to stay aligned.**

Note: Both above items have been used by NOPE host counties  
# 2005 is the preferred candle.

## **Option 2**

### **Candlelight Vigil LED Hand Held Candlestick**

Hand-held LED candlesticks for candlelight vigil, set of 2. For indoor venues, The LED flame tip flickers like a real candle.

- 700 Hour Run Time
- 6 3/8 Tall x .75 In. Dia.
- Amber Flickering Flame



Set Of 2

**<http://www.batteryoperatedcandles.net/vigil-candle-p-all-products.html>**

Note: this option has not been reviewed by NOPE Host Counties

# Contacting the Media

## **Create Media Contact List** including:

- Names, phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses for TV stations, newspaper and radio outlet contacts

**Call three weeks in advance to introduce yourself and your organization.** Tell them about your event and include the date, time and location.

- **Mention that the event will provide a great photo opportunity!**
- Call the media early in the day (generally between 10am and 3pm)
- Tell them that you have a press release and ask how they would like to receive it: fax or email?

## **Send the press release**

- **October 1<sup>st</sup>** Copy the Pitch and Press Release (provided in toolkit) directly into your email and send it to each news outlet separately. (Don't forget to make appropriate edits to personalize the release!)
- Allow the editors and reporters time to review and respond to your release.
- **Follow up with each outlet 15 minutes after sending the release** and ask them to please add the event to their calendar.
- **Tuesday the week of Vigil** Resend or forward sent press release again with a nice reminder note. Then, follow up with phone call 15 minutes after you send the release.
- **Day of Vigil** Resend release early in the morning and make sure to follow up with each outlet on Thursday morning!
- Do not be surprised if you have to send your release two or three times. Newsrooms are bombarded with faxes and e-mails that are easily lost, misplaced or blocked by spam filters.

# Suggested Agenda

**Master of Ceremonies:** Welcome, Introductions and Closing (suggestion-local news anchor/reporter)

**Honor Guard:** Contact your local law enforcement agency

**Vocalist:** National Anthem (optional) (3-4 minutes)

**Host:** Welcome/Thank Sponsors/About Us (NOPE & your organization)

**Community Leader:** Provide information and statistics regarding the issues of substance abuse

**Keynote Speaker:** Video address, Director Michael Botticelli, Office of National Drug Control Policy

**Vocalist, Chorus, and/or Musician** (3-4 minutes)

**Recovering Addict:** Testimonial (must have 2 years sobriety) (10 minutes)

**Family Member:** Testimonial from someone who has lost a loved one to drug related death. (10 minutes)

**Vocalist, Chorus, and/or Musician** (3-4 minutes)

**Spiritual Leader:** Provides a moment of silence and non-denominational spiritual message. (3-4 minutes)

**Chorus:** High school or church (2 songs 4-6 minutes)



# Talking Points for Presenters

Note: Statistics are provided for reference and may be used in any person's speech. Choose one, a few or all depending on speech topic and time limitations.

**There are approximately 39,000 annual fatal unintentional drug poisonings in the United States.**

*(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)*

**More Americans die from drug overdoses than from motor vehicle traffic crashes.**

*(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010)*

**Deaths are largely due to misuse and abuse of prescription drugs. In the majority of deaths more than one drug is found.**

*(Source: Leonard J. Paulozzi, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Epidemiologist National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)*

**2.5 million emergency department visits are attributed to drug misuse or overdose.**

*(Source: Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), 2011 National ED Estimates)*

**45% of those who use prior to the age of 15 will later develop an addiction.**

*(Source: Misuse of Prescription Drugs. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2006)*

**Every day 2,000 teens in the United States try prescription drugs to get high for the first time.**

*(Source: Partnership for Drug-Free Kids)*

**60% of teens who have abused prescription painkillers did so before age 15.**

*(Source: Partnership for Drug-Free Kids)*

**12 to 17 year olds abuse prescription drugs more than they abuse ecstasy, crack/cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined.**

*(Source: Partnership for Drug-Free Kids)*

**There are as many new abusers age 12 to 17 of prescription drugs as there are of marijuana**

*(Source: Partnership for Drug-Free Kids)*

**Nearly half (49%) of all college students either binge drink, use illicit drugs or misuse prescription drugs.**

*(Source: Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University)*





# Sample Host Speech

Good Evening,

I am (enter your name) from (name your organization).

On behalf of NOPE Task Force and (your organization), thank you for attending the Annual NOPE Candle Light Vigil -- in memory of those who have lost their lives to drug and alcohol related incidents, and those currently suffering from the disease of addiction. Tonight we are at the crossroads.

More than XX,000 (find updated stat) people are dying of unintentional drug overdoses every year, many from abusing and misusing prescription pills. As many as XXXX (find updated stat) million people are treated at hospitals every year for drug related poisoning. And 2,000 teens -- every day -- are using prescriptions like OxyContin and Vicodin as a new social drug to get high.

The way to get on the right path and stop the spread of this growing epidemic is through education.

The NOPE Vigil along with (your organization) are bringing awareness to the issue of substance abuse. We are opening the doors to recovery by eliminating the prejudice that has followed the disease of addiction.

My group (state name here) goes to XX, XX and XX (state places like schools, hospitals, etc.) to educate the community on (state what you do). (Add another sentence or two on your work).

Through partnerships and advocacy, we can -- together -- have a dramatic affect on reversing the overdose death rate and steering our young people away from dangerous drugs.

Help us get on the right path. Thank you again for coming and helping us.

# Sample Family Member Speech

Good Evening.

My name is Karen Perry.

12 years ago my family suffered the devastating loss of our son Rich to an accidental drug overdose. Rich was the oldest of four children, he was a friendly, compassionate, extremely funny young man. Rich loved golf and dreamed of becoming a professional one day.

Rich was raised to love and support his family, respect others, to be sincere, work hard and give back to the community. He had a family that cherished him and were actively taking a part in his life.

As perfect as Rich's life seemed, Rich succumbed to peer pressure and began his drug use with marijuana at age 15. He did this one summer afternoon, on a golf course with four of his friends; of those five boys four became addicted to drugs and alcohol, at least two of them overdosed more than once...and one died.

We had no idea Rich was using in high school. Rich knew that drug and alcohol use was forbidden in our house, so he became very good at hiding it.

By the time Rich was a sophomore in college his addiction had flourished. That fall we attended his cousin's wedding and it was there Rich informed me that he had become addicted to cocaine and alcohol. He wanted help.

The day Rich was admitted into rehab, I remember thinking "are we doing the right thing, labeling our son an addict at such an early age?" I feared the stigma that would follow him. When I went home to pack his belongings, I discovered a syringe and vial of Demerol, along with several different prescription pills in one bottle. Sickened, and now frightened, I knew we had made the right decision.

Our son was an addict.

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I remember the overwhelming fear and feeling of helplessness that came over me. A doctor may as well have told me that Richie had terminal cancer.

We discovered during that time that Rich had begun using prescription pills first by taking a friend's Ritalin, then Ecstasy, Xanax, Klonopin, Demerol, Oxycontin and ultimately cocaine and heroin. It was a miracle that he was alive and had the strength to inform us of his disease. We were proud of Rich for coming to us and hoped that he would do well in treatment as he had admitted to his own problem.

After four months of treatment Rich was determined to enroll back in school. After a year he appeared to be doing very well, however at some point in time he felt that he could smoke marijuana; that it was not the source of his problem. He was wrong.

On Friday, June 27, 2003 I spoke to Rich at 11:57 in the morning...our conversation was short that day, and we hung up as we always did ...he said to me "I love you mom"....and I said, "I love you too Rich."

That was the last time I ever spoke to my son.

Three days later we received that knock on the door at 2:00 in the morning. My husband went downstairs and opened the door. Two deputies were standing there. I heard my husband moan.

I ran down the steps, the whole time thinking, "Dear God please let him be in jail..."

The deputies entered the house and told us that something was wrong with our son in Orlando ...they needed to use our phone. We took them into the den and the call was made.

The deputy hung up the phone and said... "He's dead."

Those two words will forever ring in my ears...

We dropped to our knees in fetal positions screaming. I was hanging on to the deputies legs, begging him to tell me that Rich was ok....

Our screams woke our daughter Kimberly, then 12, who had no idea what was going on. She adored her older brother....We had to wake our two sons, Nick then 19... Rich and Nick were 20 months apart; best buddies did everything together, never fought. Nick was angry. and Dan 15...Rich use to chase Dan down the hall wrestling him to the ground in laughter...It was heart wrenching to watch the silent tears that poured out of Dan's eyes as he walked down that hall to his room.

I cannot tell you how it felt to watch my two sons' carry their brother to his grave, the expression and pain in their face was more than any mother could bare.

We were informed on the day of the funeral that Rich had overdosed one month to the day, before he died. Records indicate that he was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He was unresponsive. The medics administered three vials of Narcan, a drug that reverses the effects of Opiates, to Rich in a 25 minute time period. He finally came to.

The hospital did not inform us that Rich had experienced this life threatening overdose. Friends and some of their parents knew about this visit to the hospital. No one called us. Rich was released from the hospital within three hours of the 911 call.

Rich's father and I would have done anything to keep our son alive. Had we been informed we could have driven up to the hospital and taken him to treatment when he was released...

Weeks after Rich's death we went to his friend's apartment where Rich lived for 2 weeks during the month before he died. We were astounded to see numerous empty prescription drug bottles on top of the friend's dresser. On his desk were prescription receipts from

pharmacies. The majority of the empty prescriptions were for Oxycotin and at least three different doctors' names on the bottles. Rich's checkbook indicated that Rich was purchasing these drugs from his friend; there were several duplicate checks written in the same amount to this friend. Rich's friend was 21 years old, he was healthy, active and in school while being prescribed these medications. Rich's friend was in a substance abuse treatment facility when we visited his apartment.

June 28<sup>th</sup> will be the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richie's death...My mind continues to wander back to the last months of Rich's life...

My heart continues to ache at the thought of my son wandering through a town, alone, sharing the last precious hours of his existence with a person who cared not, that he would live or die, but of who would replace the income that Richie provided with each purchase he made.

My heart pounds as I imagine Richie's emotional state, on his last day as I know it...His heart aching from loss, his mind distorted, filled with loneliness... shame... self loathing. This image I have is very vivid, the image of an active addict is heart wrenching.



I held Richie's hand when he was 2 years old to cross the street...I held his hand when he was 10... and had his tonsils out...I held Richie's hand when he was 19 for 3 hours on the steps of a treatment center as we both cried.

I was not there to hold his hand the day he died.

No one was...and that breaks my heart.

# Host a College Campus Vigil

Make the NOPE Vigil part of your National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week or a Red Ribbon Week Activity!

The NOPE Vigil was purposely scheduled during Red Ribbon Week (drug awareness) and National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness week so that it can easily be incorporated into your existing plans.

Tips to insure a well attended and successful vigil on your college campus:

## 1. Promote student involvement!

- Make the vigil a community service activity
- Make the vigil an intern project
- Reach out to the Greek communities, athletic departments, honor societies and clubs on campus to request sponsorship and involvement from members

## 2. Display the Memorial Wall on Campus.

NOPE provides a printable photo disc which includes hundreds of personal stories of lost loved ones. The wall is a solemn reminder to students of the deadly consequences one wrong decision can make. The wall may be displayed throughout the entire week or even all year!



## 3. Advertise early and often

NOPE provides you with templates for flyers and post cards

## 4. Provide refreshments

What college student won't come when free food is offered!

# Host a Home Vigil

Make the NOPE Vigil a small, intimate gathering with family and friends to remember your loved one and raise awareness on this issue of drug abuse. Your home vigil can be as elaborate or as simple as you would like!

Tips to ensure a successful vigil at your home:

## 1. Plan, plan, plan!

- Choose a location. Hosting the vigil in your home creates a warm inviting feeling for your guests, however, a park or a friend's house are some other great alternatives.
- Create an agenda for the night. Hosting a dinner party, having a potluck, providing appetizers or serving dessert are great ways to start the night. Then, light candles to end the night of remembrance and awareness.
- Send invitations at least four weeks prior to the event and ask guests to RSVP.

## 2. Raise awareness

Share with friends and family facts about addiction, and how it has affected your family, in an effort to reduce the stigma associated with addiction so that those who need help are willing to receive it.

## 3. Personalize your vigil

Make your home vigil personalized by placing photographs of your loved one around the room and asking family and friends to share special memories they have of the person you are honoring that night.



# **NOPE Task Force Information**

## **NOPE Task Force**

The NOPE Task Force (Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education) is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization that was formed in Palm Beach County, Florida in 2004 to combat the illegal use of prescription drugs and narcotics, as well as other abused substances. NOPE Task Force is comprised of community leaders and concerned families working to save lives.

## **Mission Statement**

To diminish the frequency and impact of overdose death through community education, family support and purposeful advocacy.

## **Our Vision**

A world free of overdose deaths.

Since its inception, NOPE has been increasing awareness through multimedia and multimodal presentations. NOPE initiatives include:

- Middle and High School Educational Presentations
- Parent/Community and University Educational Forums
- Awareness Campaigns including the National Candle Light Vigil and state wide media campaigns
- Support Groups for family members who have lost loved ones to drug related incidents
- Treatment support
- Anti-Drug legislative efforts

## **Student Presentations**

The cornerstone of NOPE's mission is the high impact presentation, which is delivered to middle and high school students. The NOPE presentations are purposefully blunt and evoke powerful emotions. The response from students, parents and teachers has been very positive. Many students seek guidance after the presentation for themselves or to get help for their friends.



## **NOPE for Parents/Communities**

NOPE offers parents/caretakers, communities and universities interactive presentations that inform participants about the reality our nation faces regarding substance abuse and overdose deaths along with suggestions for parenting strategies to combat the issues.

## **Treatment**

Treatment is costly and for many unaffordable. The ultimate goal of NOPE is to seek out and support the best treatment programs, and provide assistance to adolescents and young adults seeking further help from them.

## **Support Group**

NOPE partners with local agencies within Chapter locations to offer group emotional support services to families who have lost loved ones to drug related deaths. Groups meet once a month and are run by a mental health professional at no cost to group members.

## **Awareness Campaigns**

The NOPE Task Force has produced several brochures and booklets providing information on the dangers of substance abuse and offering useful tools and tips on how to combat substance abuse in the home and community. NOPE hosts an annual National Candle Light Vigil to remember those lost to and suffering from substance abuse in an effort to bring awareness to the consequences our nation faces with the illegal use of prescription and illicit drugs.

## **Anti-Drug Legislation**

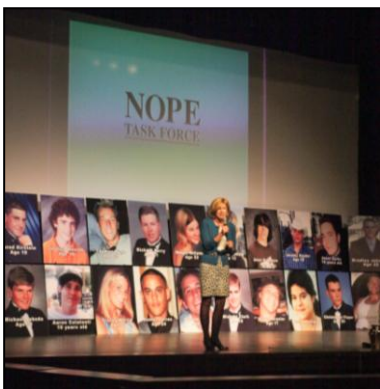
Not nearly enough action is being taken at the state and federal levels to combat the proliferation of illegal drugs and the illegal distribution of powerful prescription drugs. The NOPE Task Force brings its message to both public and private forums in order to focus attention on this epidemic that is killing our children, and to put a human face on the debate. The message is simple: Kids cannot die from a drug overdose if they do not have access to drugs.

## **Efficacy**

Lynn University, Boca Raton, Florida, provides ongoing quantitative and qualitative research for NOPE programs to determine whether or not NOPE presentations change students' core attitudes, opinions, perceptions and behaviors relative to alcohol and other drug issues. The research completed to date has shown the NOPE presentations to be effective in changing students' attitudes and knowledge in regards to our three main messages. We believe that measurable changes in these important variables may translate to less overdose deaths.

## **Endorsements**

NOPE has been identified as a "positive tool" for substance abuse prevention by the Florida Office of Drug Control. NOPE is endorsed by the Florida Sheriff's Association and the Florida Police Chief's Association; approved by the Safe and Drug Free School Advisory Council; and licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families. NOPE has had national exposure on CBS Sunday Morning in 2011 and on the CBS Early Show in 2006 and 2008; as well as having been recognized in Florida Trend Magazine, Ladies Home Journal and AARP Magazine in 2008.



# THANK YOU!



**Thank you for joining NOPE Task Force by hosting a candle light vigil in your community.**

**NOPE's mission, to reduce the frequency and impact of overdose death, could not be achieved without the hard work of our community partners, like you.**

**By uniting to remove the stigma associated with the disease of addiction, we can open the doors to recovery. It is my honor to join with you and other communities across the nation in remembering those who have lost their lives due to substance abuse. Together, we can bring support to the survivors and hope to the struggling.**

**Sincerely,**

**Karen H. Perry  
Executive Director**





**NOPE** *Narcotics  
Overdose  
Prevention &  
Education*  
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