



For Immediate Release:
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Moms Unite to End the War on Drugs

A New PATH brings moms and addiction treatment advocates together for a rally and vigil to bring focus to the failed war on drugs and the destructive results of drug prohibition.

San Diego – Mothers, family members, healthcare professionals and individuals in recovery gather on April 28 at 6pm at the San Diego Central Courthouse Steps to bring focus to our failed drug policies and the resulting devastation to the family. A rally will be held as a kick-off to a statewide campaign to stop the violence, mass incarceration and overdose deaths resulting from our current punitive and discriminatory drug policies.

In honor of the 11th anniversary of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) and advocacy work for therapeutic drug policies, a vigil will be held to remember and acknowledge those who have lost their lives or liberty to the failed “War on Drugs”.

What: Moms Unite to End the War on Drugs Rally & Vigil

When: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 6pm – 7:30pm

Where: San Diego Central Courthouse Steps, 220 West Broadway, San Diego

Who: Mothers, Family Members, Therapeutic Drug Policy Advocates, etc.

Speakers will include: Gretchen Burns Bergman, Anita Fisher, Julia Negron,

Rev. Canon Mary Moreno-Richardson, Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, etc.

Why: Punitive drug policies are expensive financially and in terms of human lives

- \$40,000,000,000 is spent annually on the War on Drugs
- 39,000 people in the US died from drug overdose in 2008
- 2.3 million inmates are crowding our nations prisons & jails.
- Over 80% of drug arrests are for simple possession
- Drug cartels generate at least 60% of their profits from marijuana alone.
- In 2009, 79 American citizens were killed in Mexico. Experts attribute the violence to Mexico’s ongoing battle with drug cartels.
- Consequences of a drug conviction, or even a simple arrest, may include the permanent loss of public housing, food stamps, welfare and student financial aid benefits, as well as, in some states, the right to vote.
- Legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana in California could raise \$1.4 billion in tax revenues and cut law-enforcement and prison costs

A New PATH is partnering with other organizations such as Families ACT! and Broken No More, as well as individuals from various areas of California in a massive collaborative effort to change our current policies of arrest and imprisonment to therapeutic strategies and regulation. Other supporters include the Drug Policy Alliance and Clergy Against Prohibition. Mothers are leading the charge to stop the pointless and punitive incarceration of drug users, and to end the needless deaths created by the illegal drug trade.

This event is a kick-off to a series of rallies, vigils and protests starting in San Diego and moving to Orange County, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Francisco and Sacramento. A large rally is being planned at the State Capitol building in Fall 2010.

“Moms are uniting and leading a charge to end drug prohibition, just as they did with alcohol prohibition in the 1930’s in order to end the pointless and punitive incarceration of drug users and the needless deaths created by the illegal drug trade.”

Gretchen Burns Bergman, Executive Director & Co-Founder A New PATH

A New PATH’s mission is to reduce the stigma associated with addictive illness through education and compassionate support and to advocate for therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies.

For more information, visit: www.anewpathsite.org, or email anewpath@cox.net.

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