

A Pledge To Florida Families

I believe every Florida family deserves a place to turn in a crisis. I recognize mental illness and addictions contribute to job loss, failure in school, divorce, abuse and trouble with the law. I pledge to support high quality and affordable mental health and addiction services for all Florida families.

Name

Street

City State Zip

Telephone Number

E-Mail Address

Organization

Signature

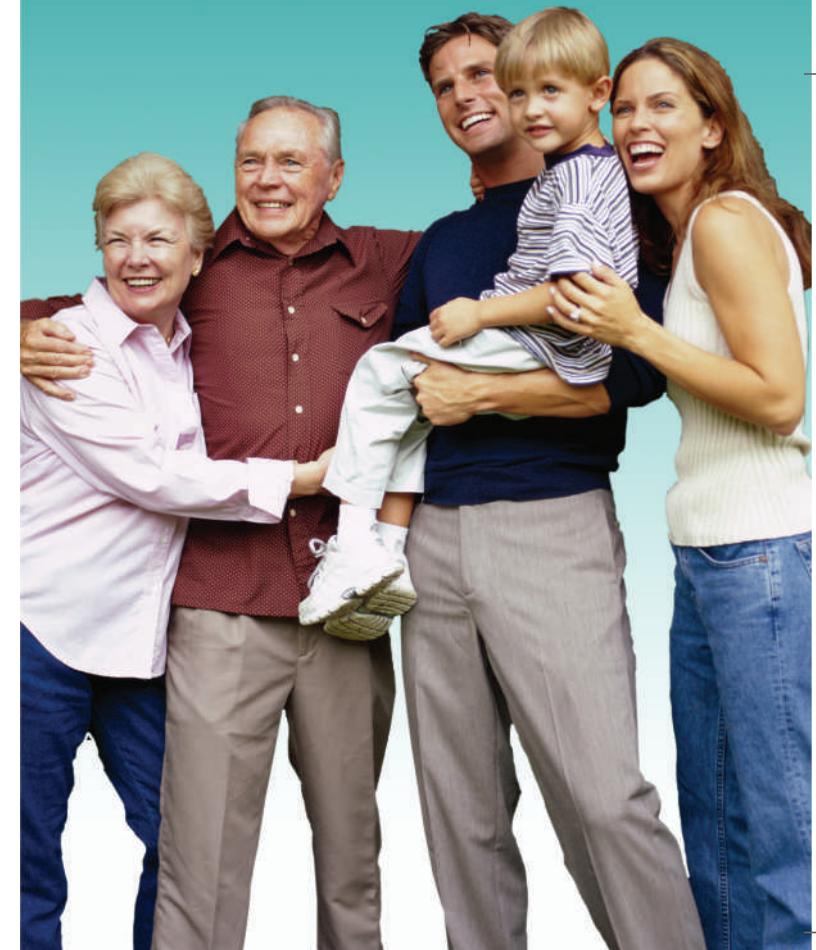
You have my permission to use my name in your Legislative outreach efforts.

Yes No



316 East Park Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850-224-6048
www.5000Friends.org

In A Crisis, Every Florida Family Deserves A Place To Turn.



316 East Park Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850-224-6048
www.5000Friends.org

FLORIDA HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO EVERY FAMILY.

Every day, mental illness and addictions affect thousands of families across Florida. All of these families deserve a place to turn in a crisis. However, affordable treatment of mental illness and addictions is not within every family's reach. Sadly, Florida has not met its responsibility to Florida's families.



Florida ranks 47th* in funding for mental health treatment and 35th** in addiction funding. Is ranking at the bottom of 50 states good enough for Florida families? Clearly, the answer is no.

Florida has a responsibility to ensure that every family has a place to turn.

By funding Florida's responsibility for community mental health and addiction services, the Legislature can clearly declare its commitment to our children, elderly and working poor. Community based mental health and addiction services are a critical part of our statewide health care system. In the aftermath of the storms that hit Florida and the Gulf Coast, we know that mental

*Federal Center for Mental Health Services

**National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse

health and addiction services are vital to helping families in their recovery. Now is the time to better fund mental health and addiction services, not after an emergency has occurred.

Become a friend of Florida families.

The Florida Council for Community Mental Health and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association invite you to become one of the 5,000 Friends of Florida Families. Please sign your pledge and return it today. We will honor your membership in the 5,000 Friends with a lapel pin you will be proud to wear in support of families in crisis. Wear the pin and let local and state leaders know you support adequate funding of mental health and addiction services in order to give Florida families in crisis a place to turn.

Florida's Responsibility Begins With You! Fill Out Your Pledge Today. Become One Of The 5,000 Friends Of Florida Families.



Vital to the Health Care of Florida Families



When my life was in crisis, I was able to find help.

"My crazy moods drove everyone I cared about out of my life. My husband and I were separated. My kids wouldn't talk to me anymore. I stopped eating and lost 30 pounds. Finally, I just didn't get out of bed. I never thought I would ever have anything to live for again. But there was help for me. I learned that my crazy moods have a name, Bipolar Disorder, and that I didn't have to be this way. As I got better and better, my life began to change, my husband and I got back together. Thank God, my kids are willing to give me a second chance. Now I try to let everyone know that there is help for them, too."

—Sue W.



I nearly lost everything that is important.

"The men in my family were lumberjacks and factory workers. It was a normal part of my childhood to watch them drink after work and at family gatherings. I started drinking daily when I was sixteen. I continued drinking until I received treatment in 1986. I was sober for twelve years. Then I started drinking again. After ten months, I lost my job, and for five straight days I sat in the house and drank alone. Finally, a friend knocked on my door checking to see if I was all right. My life was in crisis and I asked him to take me to detox."

"Today, I am sober three years and running my own business. I understand now that alcoholism is a disease that can be inherited and that treatment has to be there when people need help."

—Glenn B.