

INTERVENE

A community of parents concerned about their teens' alcohol and drug use.



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Addiction, Dealing With An Addicted Child, Substance Abuse:

Addiction Respects Nothing and No One

Tuesday, July 13th, 2010



I'm not a media hound or someone that has an interest in the lives of celebrities. I don't know Ms. Lindsay Lohan or her family but when I saw this picture that has been in the news for the last few days, I have been haunted by the expression on Ms. Lohan's face.

This is the face of every parent's child that has a problem with drugs or alcohol. This is not the face of a celebrity or movie star. This is not the face of a rich starlet messing up one more time. This is the face of someone's daughter that has a drug and alcohol problem. I've seen that face in my son. I see the fear and the panic of a person being forced into a situation that requires being face-to-face with their problem. But simply being face-to-face with the issue isn't the answer; addicts live with their addiction every day. The unfortunate reality is that until the addict faces the reality of their addiction nothing changes — they back down and the addiction wins another day.

Quoting a friend, Barbara, who also has a son [addicted to prescription drugs](#), "I'm sure many people watching were disgusted with her and see her as a spoiled celebrity that thinks she is above the law and deserves special treatment." That may be the opinion of many but the truth is: she is an addict and addiction has no respect for a person's wealth, status or celebrity. [Addiction](#) can strike anyone.

I hear so many people not familiar with addiction make up excuses or summarize it simply as "all she has to do is just quit." People also make up reasons why a person like her does drugs like, "celebrity lifestyle." Quoting my friend again, "It doesn't matter why she started using drugs; once you are hooked, it is too late to change your mind. That's when your problems build one upon the other and the more problems you have, the more you need your drugs to cope. If you are an opiate addict you need your drug just to keep from puking your guts up every morning...you need it to be "normal". I'm not excusing Lindsay's behavior, just trying to shed some light on the fact that she is incapable of living a responsible, honest life at this point."

[Addiction is complicated](#). Look at the picture again. This young lady is in pain, look at her

About This Blog

Welcome to Intervene. We are a community of experts, parents and caring adults concerned about our teens' alcohol and drug use and have come together to share our insights, inspiration, guidance and help.



Visit TIME TO ACT! for step-by-step advice for parents who suspect or know their child is using or has a problem with alcohol or drugs.

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face. This isn't the face of a celebrity; this is the face of an addict. This is the face of another father's daughter that is hurting. There is no difference when I look into the face of my son or the faces of thousands of other parents when they look into their son's and daughter's faces.

Instead of using Ms. Lohan as just another gossip rag celebrity, let's remember she needs help just as thousands of other addicts do. Addiction knows no boundaries.

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Posted by [Ron Grover](#) | Filed under [Addiction](#), [Dealing with an Addicted Child](#), [Substance Abuse](#)

2 Comments on "Addiction Respects Nothing and No One"

Helga Culbert says:

July 13th, 2010 at 3:12 pm

So true, Ron. But this is where it gets tricky. How to help if they don't want help. This is where I get stuck helplessly every time.

Nancy Joyce says:

July 13th, 2010 at 4:57 pm

Ron,

Your comments are well said. I have many memories of my daughter and the pain in her face many times. When I first saw this picture I too believe this woman is in extreme pain. People that don't understand about addiction will always make comments. Maybe they are the lucky ones that addiction has not touched their lives. I saw the ugliness that addiction brings but I also saw a young life leave this world too soon. A young woman who simply made bad decisions in spite of being educated and taught the dangers. Once she crossed that fine line from experimentation to addiction, she battled and won, then battled and lost over and over. In the end she lost her battle. I too am not making excuses for Lindsey Lohan but I also understand she is in a place NOBODY wants to be.

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Amidst My Son's Drug Addiction

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