



Writing

WRONGS

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For Immediate Release

STUDENT JOURNALISTS ILLUMINATE ISSUE OF ADDICTION AT EASY DOES IT

Ten college students will spend this holiday weekend with the residents of Easy Does It, Inc. (EDI) to hear and record their personal stories. From Sept. 3 to Sept. 5, they will work on producing an entire print and digital magazine about the topic of addiction and those affected by it. Their goal is to confront the stigma attached to addiction and present a different view, allowing readers to connect with addicts on a human level rather than a stereotype. This connection has the power to create a shift in the way society generally views this illness.

The participating students applied and were selected for this program. They are: James DeNatale, Lani Panico, Francheska Taveras, and Tamara Udowenko, Albright College, Reading; Mikayla McLaughlin-Ahern and Justin Sweitzer, Kutztown University, Kutztown; Chloe Schultz, La Salle University, Philadelphia; Niki DeGaetano, Marywood University, Scranton; Kristen Cervenak, Northampton Community College, Bethlehem; and Katelyn Bennett, Reading Area Community College, Reading. The Writing Wrongs program allows them to hone their writing, photography and design skills in a work environment with strict deadlines while simultaneously performing community service by raising awareness about specific issues in their communities.

“I am honored to be part of Writing Wrongs 2016 because I have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in our community and help eliminate the stigma surrounding addiction,” McLaughlin-Ahern, 21, said. “This project will impact the residents of EDI by giving them a chance to share their stories, as well as anyone who reads the final product by giving them a chance to read and internalize those truths.”

“Writing Wrongs 2016 presents a chance to tell the true stories surrounding addiction rather than spread preconceived notions that paint addicts in an unfair and negative light,” Sweitzer, 20, said. “By educating and informing the public, I hope we will inspire others to join the fight against addiction.”

In September 2015, the inaugural group of student journalists addressed the issue of homelessness at the Opportunity House in Reading, Pa. Their digital edition can be viewed at writingwrongs2015.com and the print edition at issuu.com/newdawnenterprises/docs/writingwrongsfall2015. Applications for next year's program open in January 2017. Interested students can apply at seektruthandreportit.com.

(more)



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