Helping the Ones We ♥

We want our loved ones to receive treatment that works.
♥ Research shows that relapse rates for substance use disorders are similar to those for people with diabetes or hypertension. Drug addiction should be approached like other chronic illnesses.¹
♥ Treatment instead of state jail incarceration lowers recidivism and the demand for drugs, and it increases public safety and taxpayer savings.²

We want our loved ones to get meaningful community support.
♥ Drug addiction should be treated locally – close to family, church, and people our loved ones look up to. People with strong community ties are less likely to recidivate.³
♥ Those with a criminal history and a history of substance abuse achieve the best outcomes when they maintain social ties and receive services in the community.⁴

We want our loved ones to help contribute to safe, healthy communities.
♥ The community is a safer place when people with a history of substance abuse receive effective treatment.⁵
♥ For each dollar invested in addiction treatment programs, there is a return of at least $4 to $7 through diminished rates of crime and lower criminal justice costs.⁶

We want our loved ones to be able to succeed.
♥ Rewards for positive behavior are more effective than penalties for negative behavior alone in creating long-term change.⁷
♥ People with a history of substance abuse who receive effective treatment and positive reinforcement can maintain employment, contributing to the economy and decreasing crime rates.⁸

⁴ Marlowe, Douglas. "Integrating Substance Abuse Treatment and Criminal Justice Supervision." Science & Practice Perspectives 2, no. 1, 2003, 4-14.
⁵ “Is drug addiction treatment worth its cost?” National Institute on Drug Abuse.
⁶ Ibid.
⁷ “How can rewards and sanctions be used effectively with drug-involved offenders in treatment?” National Institute on Drug Abuse.

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