

## Igniting Connection for a Safer Tomorrow: Steered Straight's Impactful Programs

### NEWSLETTER

#### **Changing the Narrative: Steered Straight Assemblies**

In the face of today's substance abuse pandemic, escalating violence among youth, and the rising social health threats affecting adolescents, the need for connection has never been more crucial. At Steered Straight, we recognize that fostering meaningful connections is the linchpin to safeguarding our children from the myriad challenges they face.

#### The Reality We Can't Ignore:

An era dominated by issues like Marijuana Legalization, Gun Violence, Vaping, Prescription Drug Overuse and Abuse, Cyber, and Social influences, our youth navigate a complex landscape. What often goes unaddressed is the transformative power of CONNECTION – an invaluable protective factor that can reshape their lives.

#### UNLOCKING THE POWER OF CONNECTION:

Students must comprehend the intricacies of the brain, the causes of anxiety and depression, and the importance of establishing a robust social network early in life. This is where Steered Straight excels, offering a 60-minute session that delves deep into these critical aspects. Our founder, Michael DeLeon, delivers a powerful, unique message that captivates and engages students, drawing from his own life experiences.

Through our assemblies, students will not only grasp the significance of connecting with trusted adults outside their immediate circles but also understand the social difficulties adolescents face. They'll learn practical steps, and various ways to approach topics, fostering connections that serve as a bulwark against negative factors and empower them to tackle challenges without resorting to unhealthy choices.

#### **EMPOWER YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY**

CALL NOW 615.896.5718 Book a Steered Straight assembly today!

REACH OUT TO OUR OFFICE OR MAKE A GENERAL INQUIRY ON OUR WEBSITE.

WE'RE AVAILABLE MONDAY-FRIDAY, FROM 8 AM TO 4:30 PM, AT 222 HERITAGE PARK

DRIVE, SUITE 101, MURFREESBORO, TN 37129. CONTACT US AT (856) 691-6676 OR

INFO@STEEREDSTRAIGHT.ORG.

### "SHOWIN OFF FOR SHELBY" LOCAL FUNDRAISER!

### 3RD ANNUAL SHOWING OFF FOR SHELBY EVENT

SHOWIN' OFF FOR SHELBY IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT HOSTS CAR SHOWS TO RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE BATTLING THE EPIDEMIC OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION. ACCORDING TO THE CDC, THERE WERE OVER 100,000 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS LAST YEAR. OVER 60% OF THOSE DEATHS RESULTED FROM OPIOIDS AND FENTANYL. ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE ARE SURROUNDED BY A STIGMA, BUT EACH OF US KNOWS SOMEONE WHO HAS STRUGGLED OR IS STRUGGLING WITH IT. IT IS IN OUR SCHOOLS, OUR WORKPLACES, OUR FAMILIES. WE MUST STEP UP AND FIGHT THIS BATTLE. WE BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO STOP ADDICTION IS TO PREVENT IT FROM STARTING.





### Family Coaching Corner

**Updated Topics and Support for Parents** 

#### WHAT WE THINK

- Emotions are outside of us and circumstances have to change to feel better
- There are bad days and good days
- I have my truth and other people have their truths
- Other people make me mad or frustrated
- I don't have the power to control what happens in my life

#### **REALITY**

- We create every emotion that we feel about our circumstances
- 2 Bad days and good days only live in the mind YOU decide what kind of day it is by what you think
- Facts are facts, **my thoughts** are NOT facts. Thoughts can be changed
- Only I can make myself mad or frustrated
- I have the power to experience life EXACTLY the way that I want to

### EMOTIONS ARE NOT OUTSIDE OF US - WE ARE CREATING THEM INTERNALLY

Most of us don't even understand where emotions come from



# OUR WORDS ARE OUR WINDOWS INTO RELATIONSHIPS

In today's parenting landscape, many parents emphasize the importance of respect from their children, yet often respond to their child's inquiries with dismissive statements like,

"It doesn't matter!" or "Because I said so! I'm the parent!"

However, true respect is a two-way street. To earn respect, we must first extend it.

When we allow ourselves to become emotionally charged or resort to authoritarian responses, our parenting becomes less consistent and more confrontational.

By mastering our own reactions and maintaining a sense of composure, we can effectively communicate with our children in a manner that aligns with our desired outcomes.

When engaging with our children, it's crucial to remain future-focused.

Rather than succumbing to impulsive reactions, we would do better to carefully consider the outcome we hope to achieve. If our goal is to cultivate a positive relationship with our child, responding with sarcasm or offense is counterproductive.

Consistently keeping our objectives in mind guides our choice of words in every interaction.

Reflect on your goals as a parent and envision the kind of relationship and communication you aspire to have with your children. Then, tailor your communication style accordingly, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

Choosing our words wisely can help us keep those relationships healthy and respectful.

Let's learn to understand the way that our language affects our children

### PARENTS:

Your child gets their self-esteem from YOU and what they THINK you THINK of them!





### MICHAEL R. DELEON



Michael DeLeon is on a mission: A mission to educate youth to stay on the right path when it comes to serious life issues, especially drugs. He has become the #1 booked school presenter in the country and is the nation's leading expert on Vaping and THC.

Michael is the founder and powerhouse behind Steered Straight Inc., a non-profit organization formed in 2007 upon his release from prison and designed to carry an important message to youth on the extreme dangers of drugs, gang involvement and associated criminal activity.

Steered Straight's program reaches out to children, teens and young adults with a message of reality about life-choices and the importance of consequential thinking so they understand that there are consequences to their actions. The reality of the message comes from Michael himself, who was entwined in the life of drugs and traveled a troubled road to get to his future.

Throughout the country, Michael now leads a team of talented speakers who present a realistic and powerful prevention message. His "no holds back" message resonates well with student assemblies, faculty and parents.



www.SteeredStraight.org



MEET

She's one of the few Certified Master Transformational Coaches who specializes in working with teenagers. She has become the leader in advocating for teens and working with parents to heal family relationships and give teens & parents the tools to live their best life. She works with leaders in the community to bring positive messages and important life skills into assemblies, workshops, classrooms and self-improvement seminars for children & parents







everywhere!