

Who Are We?

Joe Richardson

Former major league baseball player Joe Richardson had the honor of playing for the Boston Red Sox, but his true passion has always been his family and friends. It's this love of family that prompted him to begin spreading the word that heroin use will destroy not just your life, but the lives of those around you. Having personally experienced the ramifications of loved ones using drugs, Joe travels with Jeff to schools across the country to warn students and faculty that addiction and death can happen in anyone's family.



Jeff Mozingo

After earning a Bachelor of Music Performance degree at Southeast Missouri State University, teaching percussion, and playing professionally for over 29 years, Jeff now runs Mozingo Music with his brother, David. They are committed to furthering music education, and helping the schools they service meet the needs of their students. Along with playing and speaking for The Awaken Project, Jeff currently plays drums for contemporary Christian artist Mark Roach and a latin/jazz band Soul Circus under the direction of Lorenzo Trujillo.



We are a non-profit organization promoting Drug Education & Prevention through a dynamic music and storytelling experience. We're based in St. Louis, Missouri.

For more information or to have the Awaken Project come to your school, call 314.406.2843
www.awakenproject.org



AWAKENPROJECT.ORG



What is the Awaken Project?

Through a live rock concert and powerful, firsthand stories, we're teaching students about the effects of heroin.

We're empowering them to deny drugs completely.

We're teaching students drug prevention in a way they've never experienced.

Awaken Project

For middle schools and high schools, the Awaken Project is the only music advocacy and drug awareness program that empowers students to make choices through education based on its unique approach of live music and firsthand testimony so that teens are able to confidently choose to deny drugs completely.

In St. Louis County, **heroin deaths are nearly four times the national average**, and more youth are succumbing to the drug.

More than **650 people died** from opioid overdoses in the St. Louis region in 2016, more than four times the number in 2007.

17% of high school kids use drugs during the school day. 86% of high school kids were aware of other kids abusing drugs during school.

The Heroin Epidemic

It's our mission to give youth the confidence to stay away from drugs completely. It's not uncommon to die after using heroin once, so just trying it can have disastrous consequences. Heroin affects men and women of all ethnicities, races, and ages. It's in urban, rural and suburban neighborhoods, impacting underprivileged, middle class and affluent communities. In St. Louis and around the country, heroin use is on the rise, especially among youth.

Why music?

Everyone can relate to music. We start all assemblies with a dynamic musical performance, knocking down barriers and allowing the students to focus on our message. We bring the students into our presentation through the concert, then share our stories about the negative effects of drugs.

Why our program?

This isn't your average school assembly, and it's a program you won't find anywhere else. We bring this crucial message to students in a way that's relevant to them...while incorporating music they can relate to and enjoy. Forget tons of statistics and the same old drug prevention speak. We don't talk at students about the effects of heroin; we share our personal stories about the devastation it causes. Through our testimony and music, we empower students to make positive choices in their lives and deny drugs.



Our Message

It's loud and clear, our message is that drugs are never an option. Not even one time!



On Point

Our message is delivered at the level of the students, in an interesting and relevant manner.



Open Conversation

We start the conversation and open the door for safe communication.