

THE COMPASSION CHRONICKLES

THE TURN-A-FROWN AROUND (TAF) FOUNDATION, INC.

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SAMHSA Voice Awards

October 26, 2013, Hollywood, CA - Drew Horn, W.C., founder of the Turn-A-Frown Around (TAF) Foundation, Inc. received the 2013 SAMHSA Voice Award for Consumer/Peer Leadership.

As Drew walked on stage to the music of Michael Bublé's *Smile* playing in the background, all those watching in the live audience and at home knew they were going to watch one of Drew's most passionate speeches yet. "I'm starting my own party," he said, "the Compassion Party."

When Drew started the End Loneliness Movement 12 years ago, he firmly believed that everyone needs a friend and that friendship is the missing link between wellness and recovery.

He told his audience that this was not an impossible feat. "This is not curing cancer; this is being our brother's and sister's keeper."

Drew claimed that he knows two things about himself, the first being that he is "the luckiest mentally ill person you will ever meet" because he is surrounded by compassion and unconditional love.

The second relates to his goal while in Hollywood. "I'm the most desperate man in this room." He indicated, "I need Danny Thomas to start it. I need Jerry Lewis to gather his Rat Pack. I need a face for grandma. I need a face for the forgotten."

TAF is confident that with Drew's moving words in his acceptance speech, TAF will shortly become a household name. His vision that no resident in a nursing home, psychiatric hospital, or related facility will suffer from loneliness is very much achievable.

Drew also took this opportunity to announce the upcoming book launch, "I'm so Bipolar I should have been an Elevator Operator." The book is in its final stages of being edited so keep a look out for any new updates!

Missed the Voice Awards or want to see Drew's speech again? Watch the full acceptance speech on our [YouTube Channel: TAF Foundation](#).

A special thank you to Sheryll Franko for accompanying Drew to Hollywood and filming! •



Angel Ed Johns, John Hamilton, and Drew Horn
Benefit Concert, Alpha, NJ

John Hamilton Benefit Concert

By Michael "Kindness" Fay

October 19th, 2013, Alpha, NJ - We are pleased to announce that a Benefit Concert was held to support the Turn-A-Frown Around Foundation, Inc. with Nashville recording artist John Hamilton.

The concert was a huge success, a great night of entertainment enjoyed by all! Our thanks to John Hamilton for an outstanding performance and to the Alpha Presbyterian Church, Alpha, NJ, for use of their facilities!

The concert was organized by our own Angel Ed, who did an amazing job too (woo-hoo)! There were also guest appearances by several TAFE world changers - Ed Johns, Chelsea Durocher, Caitlyn Yerves, TAFE founder and world changer extraordinaire, Drew Horn, and yours truly!

The event was very well attended, so our heart-felt thanks to everyone who turned out to support our mission, to end loneliness one friendship at a time!

If you'd like to learn more about John Hamilton, visit his Facebook page, Hamilton Entertainment.

Keep an eye out for future fundraisers! ●

To submit a fundraising idea,
email tafafoundation@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!

With our next newsletter scheduled to be released after the New Year, TAFE would like to thank each and every supporter who has brought us this far. We are so thankful for the volunteers and friends we have and we're looking forward to another great year!

We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season with your family and Forever Friends! ●



Angelic Updates

Our very own Angel Ed is staying busy, embodying the essence of the ending loneliness movement.

On September 18, Angel Ed was honored by the Phillipsburg Rotary Club at Flynn's on the Hill with the Good Samaritan award. We are so excited for Ed's accomplishment because it truly speaks to all the good he has done in his life and for Turn-A-Frown Around.

Angel Ed also joined John Hamilton on October 19 at TAFE's benefit concert, wowing the crowd and raising funds that will directly go towards ending loneliness!

Check out PBS39's special, Focus, on November 15, at 7 PM. Check your local listings or watch online at wlv.org.

We're so proud of you, Ed! To get involved with Ed's efforts, email him at AngelEd.tafa@gmail.com! ●

Transition Committee Shout Out!

TAFE counts its blessings every day for the transition team that is getting TAFE to the next level! The team meets weekly to comb through TAFE's goals and objectives.

Thank you to the current committee members:

Colleen Meyers, Michael Fay,

Angel Ed Johns, Joe Meany,

Diane Van Blarcom, Lois Oppenheim,

Joe Masciandaro, Penny Grande,

Drew Horn, and Afshan Ladha



Testimonials that Turn Our Frowns Around

What is so great about volunteering for TAFAs? The idea that the simplest things I have to offer, like my company and conversation, are so valuable to so many. It's almost crazy to think that compassion can be a movement until you understand the reality of how deficient in compassion so many places really are.

Have you had any experiences with loneliness? Yes, but I'm starting to learn that loneliness isn't always bad. It actually can help you grow in smaller doses. But it's a different story when loneliness defines a person's entire life. That's where Smile Stations are needed.

- Jackie D.

Visiting a lonely person at a hospital is a privilege. We certainly gain as much from them as they gain from us. I love the compassion and selfless acts of kindness that make this world a better place. I love and admire anyone whose mission is to reach the forgotten and the ones without a voice. If you want to know what Drew is all about, just spend 5 minutes with him in person. He's an inspiration to anyone who believes in human dignity and universal love. Drew, I love you man. I hope the seeds of TAFAs continue Drew's original vision to visit patients who may be friendless, isolated, lonely and without hope.

- Antonio J.

To make someone smile ... I would smile at them first! One smile in return for another smile will add up to a multitude of smiles, laughter & friendships which would be my start in ending loneliness today!!!

- Anna C.

I consider myself an advocate on the journey to ending loneliness and help TAFAs all around. Ending loneliness has an easy fix and if we all take a little time out to help someone in need, the world would be a different place. It's absolutely beautiful to bring joy into a person's life who is in pain and I thank TAFAs for showing me the way to do so. Drew & all of TAFAs' volunteers are passionate and determined to end loneliness! I'm so happy that I got involved and will ALWAYS encourage others to do the same and join our voyage.

- Jessica B.

Community service and civic engagement have played a huge role in my life for as long as I can remember. Being such a passionate volunteer, I got involved with MSU's Smile Station as an experiment to myself. Almost all the service I have ever done has been education oriented or involved children. For once I wanted to try working with an older population. During my very first visit to the nursing home, I noticed the glow in my Forever Friend's face as I conversed with her and stayed with her for a while. There and then, I realized how rewarding visiting this individual felt, and how much of a difference I was making in her life. I am truly convinced that I want to stay a part of the Turn-A-Frown Around Foundation for the rest of my life.

- Juan O.

Being a Forever Friend is the most humbling and rewarding experience I have ever had. As the president of the MSU Smile Station, I encourage all young World Changers to take the "character step" up and become a Forever Friend because it will change their lives immensely. Entering these institutions of loneliness and seeing the sadness and pain is an eye-opening experience that not only has made me grateful but gives me the urge to make sure these people do not travail through life in vain, but rather live with dignity feeling loved and important. Forever Friendship teaches values of empathy, caring, and unconditional love. These are values that will make us better people, and as a whole a better world! One day when I have children, they will surely be young Forever Friends because the value and importance of friendship starts by becoming a Forever Friend. This is something I wish everybody would take part in! If more people were Forever Friends, less people would be lonely and our world would be a much brighter, happier place to live for everybody.

- Chelsea D.

Many people go through life hoping to find something they find important. I found TAFAs a few years ago and never looked back. I'm honored to do what I can.

- Sweet A. ●

*To submit an article or idea to the newsletter,
email tafafoundation@gmail.com*

WC(C)CH

By Caitlyn "Cool Cat" Yerves

The world around me has transformed. Over the past few years that I have been working with TAFa, I have realized that the world changed because I changed. Upon deeper reflection, I decided that my own dramatic metamorphosis is a direct result of my experience with TAFa.

Over the summer, I spent a lot of time working with Drew to finish up the book project that I got involved in two years ago. We were making some great progress down that path, but there were some roadside attractions that became distractions during our journey. As Drew became busier, and the demands on his time seemed to overwhelm his passion, it became clear that more people needed to step up and lead.

The individuals who are running this organization are doing an incredible job - it's truly an inspiration. Their commitment made it obvious that the MSU Smile Station had to step up its game to stay up to par with TAFa. So, with that motivation, I teamed up Chelsea Durocher to transform the face of Montclair State University.

It's so easy to stay excited about the mission when working with Chelsea because she has that same drive and compassion that I have become comfortable with - having worked so closely with Drew. We put our heads together and devised a plan to create a community on campus through, what we would call, World Changing Compassion Coffeehouses (WCCCH).

During these open mic events, our Forever Friends come together and invite more people to join us. We create an environment of friendship and compassion and take our positivity to the places of pain that need it most. Ultimately, what we are doing is ending loneliness on campus so that we can end loneliness everywhere! •

Do you need a friend right now?

Loneliness does not discriminate. TAFa wants to end your loneliness by offering compassion through the love of a Forever Friend. To get in touch with a Forever Friend today, contact us and we'll connect you with someone as soon as possible. There is no charge to end your loneliness.

Contact us at tafafoundation@gmail.com or call (862)682-9830.

Visit our website: turnafrownaround.org

Find us on Facebook: [TAFa Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/TAFa-Foundation)

Follow us on Twitter: [TAFa Foundation](https://twitter.com/TAFa-Foundation)

Get Involved

Volunteer for any of the positions below:

- Forever Friend/E-mail Friend/Phone Friend
- Ambassador to the President (Create a Smile Station)
 - The Compassion Theater Company
 - Publicity and Marketing Efforts
 - Join the Administration

We can never have too many volunteers.
Make TAFa your cause. Own the mission.

The Smile Station Express

The Smile Station Express
travels from town to town,
setting up Smile Stations
to turn your frown around.

Who will love the loveless?

Who will be a friend?

Who will seek and find the lost?

Who will bring loneliness to an end?

Will it be the worship house?

Love is what they teach.

Or the local bar and grill?

With beers within your reach.

Elk clubs, moose, and lions,
any animal will do.

Kids from grammar school to college,
it could even be your friends and you.

So climb on the Smile Station Express
as we gather each Forever Friend.

Start a Smile Station right now,
is the message that we send.

Just think about the lonely
and how they will come alive.
Just think about the forgotten
whose soul you will revive.

So will you become a Forever Friend?

Don't make us wait or guess.

Please bring your unconditional love
and join the Smile Station Express.