

It could never be me. *Local Girl Overdoses at Teen Party*. It's a tragic story, really, but those things only happen to other people. *Alcohol: The Dangers of Addiction*. It is great to be informed, but I won't need it, I will never get sucked into that. *The Influence of Peer Pressure*. It can't be that bad, it's not hard to say no. These are important topics and I am glad I have the knowledge but I will never need it because it could never be me.

I became a member of Drug Free Clubs of America my freshman year. Looking back now, the snacks after the drug testing and the field trip for the rally were the only reasons I got involved. The impacts of drugs and alcohol never reached me up to this point. I never thought I would have any encounters so the things I learned were just extra information. The club prepared me for situations I thought I would never be involved in. However, as I went through high school it became more clear that what I thought was not true at all.

My sophomore year, I came to a realization. I paid attention to things that I never noticed because of the Drug Free Club. I saw the addiction and peer pressure around me and I realized that these people were close to me, they were my age, my build, they even had my personality traits. It hit me that the overwhelming pressure to try these dangerous substances could reach me. I could easily be the girl at the party, I could easily have an addiction, I could easily be a victim of peer pressure. I realized that it could happen to me and I needed to take my drug free lifestyle more seriously.

I became a M.A.D.E. ambassador my junior year and a role model for other members. As an ambassador, we create activities and groups for our members to encourage membership. This team has made it easier for me to have a positive attitude towards leading a drug free lifestyle. The Drug Free Club has given me a great opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded people. Not only do I have the knowledge to help me say no to addictive substances, but I also have security to stay drug and alcohol free because of the family-like atmosphere. I have lasting friendships that will support and never pressure me because of this club.

I always thought it could never be me. I joined the Drug Free Club because there was a day off of school and cool perks, it looked good to coaches and colleges. Now, it is so much more. It has given me the confidence to make the right decisions and the opportunity to be there for the other members. Most importantly it has taught me to realize that situations with drugs and alcohol don't only happen to other people, it can happen to me too. I have been given the resources that I need to say no to drugs and alcohol. I will forever be impacted by my membership of the Drug Free Clubs of America.

It could be me, but it won't because of the foundation that M.A.D.E. has given me. *Tragic Stories, Uplifting Moments Mark M.A.D.E Rally*. It was my first rally in 2018. At this rally, I knew our goal was about something bigger than myself but I never thought it could reach me. *Thousands of Teens March in Drug-Free Rally in Chillicothe*. I was one of the thousand in 2019. After my experience, the stories hit a little harder than the year before. In 2020, the pandemic made a rally impossible, but I continued to make the right decisions. *MADE Rally Packs Gym for 2021 Drug-Free Event*. My last one was unforgettable and although I won't be a part of it next year, I will continue to stay drug and alcohol free. The Drug Free Club is more than just a high school club, it is a lifelong commitment that I intend to keep.