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The Drug Free Club has been a part of my life since my freshman year of high school in the stressful year of 2020. Although that was my first experience with the club, it was not my first experience being around someone with a drug addiction. The Drug Free Club encouraged me to fight harder for my family to become sober and face their enemy against drugs.

I was born in October of 2005 to two parents who were still kids themselves and everyday was a struggle for them. They grew up with parents who hadn't broken the cycle of psychological abuse and brought those habits along with them. After I was born, the stress of new parenthood and already previous childhood trauma had caused them to try heroin. As if a domino effect, the addiction of heroin caused them to be in and out of my life and when I did talk to them I would have to tell them I loved them through the plexi glass of a correctional facility. Addiction tore my childhood apart and every police officer knew each of my parents like the back of their hands that put the handcuffs on my mom and dad. While my dad became clean in the last few years, my mom unfortunately lost her battle to drugs in January of 2023. While this tore me apart more than any other pain I've ever felt, it encouraged me to break the cycle of addiction that is in my genes and encouraged my other family members to stay away from drugs. Everytime I get chosen for a random drug test and I always test negative, I get a sense of pride that makes me feel better for beating the odds. While I still have multiple family members that are still on drugs, the drug free club inspires me to continue to love them and not shut them out of my life. A person dealing with an addiction needs someone to advocate for them whether they think they need it or not. I recently found out that my uncle who had recently been released from prison whom I was fairly close with at times was using drugs again. Watching the effects of drugs take over your loved ones live is a surreal experience that I wish for no one to ever have to live through. Although, being drug free has allowed me to try my best anyway I can to help him through his battle as he struggles with addiction.

In conclusion, addiction is a demon that shows no mercy and when you start drugs it not only affects you but the people you love as well. Being in the drug free club has given me a chance to break the cycle that I have seen take my moms life and has taken away so many opportunities that my other family members could have had. While my other family members are not drug free in some cases, I pledge to stay drug free for the rest of my life and hold them accountable as well as I can. I hope to someday be able to live among my family without drugs being in they're systems and that they are free of the addiction that is always held over their heads. My family is one of the most important factors in my life and being in the Drug Free Club has allowed me to give them another chance.