



THE THINGS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT

**STOP THE SILENCE. START THE
CONVERSATION. SAVE A LIFE.**



Preventing drug use and addiction, suicide and bullying starts with a conversation.
A true story of a recovering addict about growing up, challenges, peer pressure, choices,
suicide, survival and God's Divine Mercy.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER ...

Brescia Bianco-Badenhorst is the owner and founder of Semicolon Marketing & Events, a wife as well as a mother. After overcoming her own addiction in 2003, Brescia continued to raise awareness about substance abuse and mental health, to help others. She now uses her personal experiences with suicide, addiction and as a recovering addict as an influence for her motivational talks.



Kids have questions ...

Do you have
the answers?

The 3 most dangerous words a parent can say ...

"Not my child"

We need to talk to our children ...

If we don't,
they will
seek answers
elsewhere

Awareness of the Semicolon

A semicolon is used as a message of affirmation and solidarity against suicide, depression, addiction and other mental health issues.

These are topics that are very close to my heart for which I raise awareness through the use and visibility of the semicolon.

A semicolon, through the lens of mental health, is a symbol of solidarity between those of us who live and struggle with mental illness or who have lost someone to suicide. It is also a symbol of survival for recovering addicts.





I AM NOT ANONYMOUS. I AM NOT ASHAMED. WHAT USED TO BE MY MESS IS NOW MY MESSAGE. THERE'S LIFE AFTER ADDICTION, AND I PRAY THAT EVERYONE FINDS IT. *Addict with Purpose*

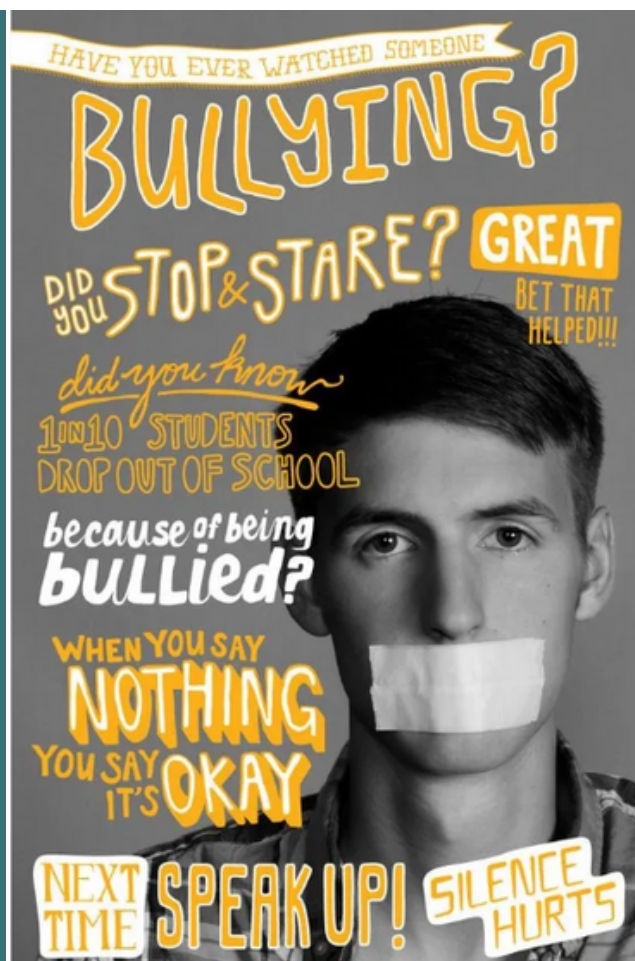
ABOUT THE PROJECT

Through my story of my experiences, I hope to empower parents with more insight to be able to have proper conversations with their children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol use, preparing children to make safer and healthier choices.

To offer more insight to parents and children about bullying and the scars it leaves that affect quality of life.

Addressing the reality of mental health and suicide and encouraging children and parents to make real efforts to care for themselves and their loved ones.

- Why do some people become addicted, while others do not?
- **Why can't people who have an addiction "just stop" using drugs?**
- What properties in drugs make them addictive?
- **Does marijuana use lead to the use of other drugs?**
- How can I help someone if they are on drugs?
- **Where did I fail in raising my child?**
- What is the impact of wrong friends / peer pressure in my life?
- **What are some of the environmental factors that influence your child's expectations regarding the use of alcohol and/or drugs?**
- If you have a history of addiction in your family, should you discuss it with your children?



I GIVE YOU ADVICE ABOUT ADDICTION NOT BECAUSE I STUDIED ABOUT IT IN SCHOOL, BUT BECAUSE I'VE EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF. SO WHEN I TELL YOU ADDICTION WILL TAKE AWAY EVERYTHING FROM YOU AND LEAVE YOU WITH NOTHING BUT THE PAIN YOU WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE. BELIEVE THAT.

"NOT MY CHILD"

Is a phrase I've heard too often. Of course, the hope is that no child ever goes down the path of drug experimentation or suicide, but the reality is very different from our hopes.

Children are faced with all kinds of challenges and pressures on their journey, especially during their transition from primary school to high school. The reality is that so many of us accept the premise that our children are fully prepared for the unfortunate day they are introduced to something harmful.

When this day comes, it is my hope that my story has made enough of an impact to help children avoid walking down a path that all too often ends in tragedy.

THE GOOD NEWS

By talking to your children regularly about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, you reduce their chances of using them by 42%.

THE BAD NEWS

The problem is only 1 in 4 teens report having these conversations, leaving 75% of teens uninformed.

12

YEARS

the average age of first use of alcohol

13

YEARS

the average age of first use of marijuana

33

the percentage of scholars who perceive little to no risk with alcohol consumption

36

the percentage of scholars who perceive little to no risk with marijuana use

**GRADE 3
GRADE 4**

Children begin to set expectations about whether they will consume or abstain from alcohol as adults

**2/3 of youth
between
13 & 17**

say the loss of their parents' respect and pride is one of the main reasons they don't smoke weed or use other drugs

**To The Person Struggling With Addiction, From The Person In Recovery
To The Children Who Have To Make The Choice, From The Person Who Also Had To
To The Parents With So Many Questions, From The Person With Parents On The Journey**

- Schools -/ Churches -/ Function bookings welcome
- A quote will be provided for the booking enquiry

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