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Folder Title: Nancy Reagan: Daytop Village (Rohrabacher) Research DB: Oct. 27, 1981
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(Rohrabacher/TD)

MRS. REAGAN -- DAYTOP FOUNDATION CEREMONY OCTOBER 27, 1981

I thank you so much for this award. I appreciate it very much and I'm pleased to be here with you tonight to honor the Daytop Village Foundation and all the wonderful work they are doing.

My husband became Governor of California at a time when the drug problem was just hitting the State. Drug use seemed to be romanticized by the entertainment industry and by a lot of people who should have known better.

So many young people went through such terrible experiences with drugs; parents suffered right along with their children.

Some people just gave up, thinking there was nothing that could be done. Others relied on the police and that did not stop the problem.

I've always thought of the family as one of society's most vital institutions. And being a parent is one of the most important jobs in the world. I really believe that.

It is also one of the hardest jobs. Many parents, understandably, are unequipped to handle some problems, especially problems concerning drugs.

It was during the difficult time of the 1960's that Daytop was formed. Daytop was not giving up. When I first visited Daytop, I was overwhelmed by what I saw. These young people experienced so much pain and sorrow, yet there was hope and determination in their voices. Their stories,

like the ones we've heard tonight, suggest that there is a way to help young people get back on the right road -- even after experiencing so much adversity.

As you are aware, my husband is encouraging more Americans to get involved in private efforts to solve some of our country's problems. Daytop depends on voluntary contributions for a significant portion of its budget. This is the kind of spirit that we need to expand upon.

It is when people want to help each other that things are going to change. We just can't sit and expect Government to take responsibility if we really want things to get better.

One thing I particularly like about Daytop is that it is based on this same sense of responsibility taken right to the individual level. And while the young person is given responsibility, Daytop is there to help.

It should be the same with all of us. We may not be able to do the job personally, but we can be there when such wonderful organizations as Daytop need help. Paraphrasing your motto: Only you can do it, but you can't do it alone.

So tonight I thank you for this award and urge you to continue the tremendous work. You are making a lasting imprint on the lives of the young people and by doing so, making America a little better place to live.

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