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Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
Second Genesis
J.W. Marriott

April 14, 1986

-- Thank you so much. And on behalf of Second Genesis, thank you for your generous contributions. Few causes are more noble than those which give our youth the chance to be all they can be, and to lead full, active lives. As you obviously know, it's up to us to see that this is done.

-- After completing a program like Second Genesis, it's not all that easy for a young person to go sailing right back into the mainstream of society. When they face the same temptations and pressures that turned them on to drugs in the first place, they have to be ready for the challenge. They need to have so much love and strength inside them that nothing can damage the self-esteem they've worked so hard to rebuild. Jobs like the ones Hecht's and J.W. Marriott are providing for them are just what they need. You are giving them something to be proud of and to excel in. You are helping them prove that the battle against drug addiction can be won and there are many young people and their parents who are very grateful to you. I pray that there will be a day when drug abuse will be a thing of the past. I can't help but believe it will happen because of people like you in this room. I've seen so many victories in my travels across this country and overseas, and nothing can be more rewarding than seeing the light in the faces of those who have won the battle of drug abuse. With your continued support, many more lights will shine and drug abuse will be something future generations will only remember hearing about.

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
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-- Again, my appreciation to Second Genesis; to all of you supporting the program; and to the kids who've been through it and are now helping others. And to our special guest here tonight, Natalie Cole. I hope you know how much we all appreciate your coming. Congratulations on your personal victory. You are a shining role model for our youth.

-- Again, thank you for inviting me to be with you and God bless you.

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