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Award. June 23, 1986
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Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
Kiwanis International Award
Sam Houston Coliseum

June 23, 1986

-- Thank you. I'm genuinely honored to receive the Kiwanis World Service Medal. I feel doubly honored in that the award comes not only from people I count as friends, but from people I respect very much.

-- I also want to thank you for what you're doing to fight drug abuse. I can't think of a better example of community responsibility than the work of the Kiwanis International.

-- You know I read a piece the other day by the columnist Jack Kilpatrick. He'd recently attended a conference of New York State Mayors in Niagra Falls - most of them from quite small towns, just like many of your hometowns. And he asked the mayors what they regarded as the biggest problem they faced in their communities. He expected the answer to be liability insurance, but they said "crack."

-- As the news media have been reporting very well, crack is the latest - and one of the most addictive - drugs to hit our young people. Kids can get hooked on crack, which is a form of cocaine, in a matter of days or weeks. It's an obsessive and compulsive drug, and it's reaching epidemic proportions.

-- This drug is being bought and sold and taken on the streets of your communities. It's ruining lives. It's tearing families apart - even the best, most loving of families. And it's causing crime by young people whom you would never expect.

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
Kiwanis International Award
Page Two

-- You know I sometimes think -- if anything is sacred, our children are sacred. And we are the ones who must tend their flame until they can burn brightly on their own. They are so vulnerable to drugs because they simply want to be liked and accepted by their peers - or in some cases, by themselves. Many are so young they haven't yet developed the strength and values and understanding that would help them say no to drugs.

-- For too long, we didn't understand drug abuse and the devastating impact it could have on our families and our society. For too long, the children who were tangled in the web of drugs were justified in asking, "Who really cares?"

-- Fortunately, because of people like you, that attitude is changing. When an organization like the Kiwanis says, "We care. We are concerned. We want to help," the message will be heard. You represent the very best of community life. I can't tell you how reassuring it is knowing I can count on the support of Kiwanis International, and I am very proud to be awarded your medal. Thank you and God bless you all.

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(Parvin-6/18/86)

MRS. REAGAN: KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AWARD
JUNE 23, 1986

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I also want to thank you for what you're doing to fight drug abuse. I can't think of a better example of community responsibility than the work of the Kiwanis International.

You know I read a piece the other day by the columnist Jack Kirkpatrick. He'd recently attended a conference of New York State mayors in Niagara Falls--most of them from quite small towns, just like many of your hometowns. And he asked the mayors what they regarded as the biggest problem they faced in their communities. He expected the answer to be liability insurance. But they said, "Crack."

As the news media have been reporting very well, crack is the latest--and one of the most addictive--drugs to hit our young people. Kids can get hooked on crack, which is a form of cocaine, in a matter of days or weeks. It's an obsessive and compulsive drug, and it's reaching epidemic proportions.

This drug is being bought and sold and taken on the streets of your communities as I speak. It's ruining lives. It's tearing families apart--even the best, most loving of families. And it's causing crimes by young people whom you would never expect.

You know I sometimes think--if anything is sacred, our children are sacred. And we are the ones who must tend their flame until they can burn brightly on their own. They are so vulnerable to drugs because they simply want to be liked and accepted by their peers--or in some cases, by themselves. Many are so young they haven't yet developed the strength and values and understanding that would help them say no to drugs.

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10,5 to T. S. Daley
7,200 to "Just Say No"
Thanks Henry school
KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AWARD *may thing out*
JUNE 23, 1986

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-- I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE. I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY THAN THE WORK OF THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL.

-- YOU KNOW I READ A PIECE THE OTHER DAY BY THE COLUMNIST

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JACK KIRKPATRICK. HE'D RECENTLY ATTENDED A CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE MAYORS IN NIAGRA FALLS--MOST OF THEM FROM QUITE SMALL TOWNS, JUST LIKE MANY OF YOUR HOMETOWNS. AND HE ASKED THE MAYORS WHAT THEY REGARDED AS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM THEY FACED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. HE EXPECTED THE ANSWER TO BE LIABILITY INSURANCE. BUT THEY SAID, "CRACK."

-- AS THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE BEEN REPORTING VERY WELL, CRACK IS THE LATEST--AND ONE OF THE MOST ADDICTIVE--DRUGS TO HIT OUR YOUNG

PEOPLE. KIDS CAN GET HOOKED ON CRACK, WHICH IS A FORM OF COCAINE, IN A MATTER OF DAYS OR WEEKS. IT'S AN OBSESSIVE AND COMPULSIVE DRUG, AND IT'S REACHING EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS.

-- THIS DRUG IS BEING BOUGHT AND SOLD AND TAKEN ON THE STREETS OF YOUR COMMUNITIES AS I SPEAK. IT'S RUINING LIVES. IT'S TEARING FAMILIES APART--EVEN THE BEST, MOST LOVING OF FAMILIES. AND IT'S CAUSING CRIMES BY YOUNG PEOPLE WHOM YOU WOULD NEVER EXPECT.

-- YOU KNOW I SOMETIMES THINK--IF ANYTHING IS SACRED, OUR CHILDREN ARE SACRED. AND WE ARE THE ONES WHO MUST TEND THEIR FLAME UNTIL THEY CAN BURN BRIGHTLY ON THEIR OWN. THEY ARE SO VULNERABLE TO DRUGS BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY WANT TO BE LIKED AND ACCEPTED BY THEIR PEERS--OR IN SOME CASES, BY THEMSELVES. MANY ARE SO YOUNG THEY HAVEN'T YET DEVELOPED THE STRENGTH AND VALUES AND UNDERSTANDING THAT WOULD HELP THEM SAY NO TO DRUGS.

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DEVASTATING IMPACT IT COULD HAVE ON OUR FAMILIES AND OUR SOCIETY. FOR TOO LONG, THE CHILDREN WHO WERE TANGLED IN THE WEB OF DRUGS WERE JUSTIFIED IN ASKING, "WHO REALLY CARES?"

-- FORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU, THAT ATTITUDE IS CHANGING. WHEN AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THE KIWANIS SAYS, "WE CARE. WE ARE CONCERNED. WE WANT TO HELP," THE MESSAGE WILL BE HEARD. YOU REPRESENT THE VERY BEST OF COMMUNITY LIFE. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW REASSURING IT IS KNOWING I CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF KIWANIS

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