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REMARKS FOR THE YMCA DAY CAMP VISIT
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1988

-- THANK YOU. I'M GLAD WE COULD BE TOGETHER TODAY BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

-- I THINK ABOUT YOU A LOT. I'M WORRIED ABOUT ALL THE PRESSURES ON YOU TO USE DRUGS AND I UNDERSTAND HOW HARD IT IS TO SAY NO TO THESE PRESSURES.

-- I REALIZE THAT WHEN I URGE YOU TO "JUST SAY NO" TO DRUGS, IT'S NOT THAT EASY. THE STREETS OUT THERE ARE TELLING YOU IT'S ALRIGHT TO USE DRUGS, THAT IT'S A THRILL, THAT IT'S A WAY TO

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BELONG TO THE GROUP, THAT IT'S THE WAY TO GET NICE THINGS -- AFTER ALL, JUST LOOK AT THE DRUG DEALERS WITH THEIR FANCY CARS AND CLOTHES AND ROLLS OF MONEY. BUT YOU HAVE SOMETHING THE DRUG DEALERS DON'T -- A FUTURE. IF YOU'RE DETERMINED ENOUGH, YOU CAN BECOME ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE. THE DRUG DEALERS CAN'T. THEY'VE ALREADY LOST. THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FUTURE, EXCEPT AN EVENTUAL PRISON TERM OR DEATH ON THE STREETS.

-- WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT THE STREETS AND THE DRUGS

ON THOSE STREETS CAN DESTROY YOUR FUTURE. IN SPITE OF ALL THE PRESSURES ON YOU, JUST SAYING NO IS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO KEEP DRUGS OUT OF YOUR LIFE. IT'S NOT JUST A SLOGAN. IT IS A MEANS TO GET THROUGH THE DRUG TEMPTATIONS AND PRESSURES THAT YOU FACE.

-- SO IF SOMEONE OFFERS YOU DRUGS, JUST SAY NO. IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU THAT EVERYONE IS DOING IT, JUST SAY NO. IF A FRIEND WANTS YOU TO TAKE DRUGS AND BE PART OF THE GROUP, JUST SAY NO.

-- BUT THEN AFTER SAYING NO, YOU NEED SUPPORT. IT'S VERY

HARD TO FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS BY YOURSELF. YOU NEED FRIENDS WHO ALSO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SAY NO. YOU NEED POSITIVE THINGS TO DO AND SUPPORTIVE PLACES TO GO. THAT'S WHY THE YMCA IS SO IMPORTANT. YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM THE PRESSURES OF DRUGS HERE.

-- WHEN I STARTED MY REMARKS, I SAID I CAME HERE BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT ALL THE PRESSURES ON YOU. I REALLY THINK THAT SHOULD BE CHANGED TO I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. NOW, THAT I HAVE MET YOU AND SEEN THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU ARE ACCOMPLISHING HERE

AT THE YMCA DAY CAMP, I KNOW YOU ARE BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND
SELF-ESTEEM AND YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ABOUT
YOUR LIVES.

-- PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAY NO TO DRUGS AND YES TO YOUR
FUTURE. AND HELP OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY SAY NO.

-- THANK YOU AND KEEP COMING TO THE Y.

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