



The Oklahoma Pharmacy Educational Foundation (OPEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated in 2006, that is committed to advancing the profession of pharmacy in cooperation with the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA) and the pharmacists of Oklahoma. OPEF works with OPhA on special projects, such as acquiring funding and conducting studies that will benefit the profession and the citizens of Oklahoma. OPEF also recognizes Oklahoma pharmacists in leadership positions, presents awards at the state level, and fosters relations within the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries.

OPEF has initiated its first special project. This project is our first effort to address an issue that is endangering the health and welfare of the citizens of the State of Oklahoma: prescription drug abuse by children of grade school age and teenagers. OPhA and the OPEF have teamed up with the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) and the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy to produce a video depicting the consequences of the misuse of prescription drugs by a young person named Tyler. Tyler made one bad decision - a decision to take drugs just for fun. This decision led to other decisions and events which eventually cost Tyler his life.

The prevention of prescription drug abuse by our state's youth requires the united effort of all members of the community. As the gatekeepers of prescription drugs, pharmacists are a vital link in the chain and can have a dramatic impact on preventing prescription drug abuse. Pharmacists, as prescription drug experts, have a unique opportunity to provide education about the dangers of the misuse of medications by teenagers, and provide education about the prevention of diversion to their parents. The video and educational materials are available for free to pharmacists and others to show to youth groups and will give pharmacists the opportunity to talk with kids about the dangers of prescription drug abuse. The video is provided with a complete set of talking points for pharmacists to use to initiate the discussion portion of the presentation.

Sandy Garrett, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has sent a Memorandum to Principals of schools in the State of Oklahoma asking them to take advantage of this educational opportunity. In her Memorandum, Ms. Garrett stated: "Pharmacists are a crucial component in our state's efforts to prevent drug abuse. Prevention education is key!" We ask you as a pharmacist and a citizen to become involved by contacting the schools nearest you and presenting this short video to the students in these schools. The need is urgent! Please become involved.

For more information, contact Kim Spitz at kspitz@opha.com or (405) 557-5775.