AFIRE TIP 18

Build Relationships



A 2001 study by Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) reveals the positive effect that religion has on substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.

The study notes that "participants in recovery may have great needs for spiritual guidance." They further explain that "Individuals struggling to recover may feel abandoned by God or alienated from God or the religious community."

How can your AFIRE group help?

 One thing CASA recommends is that churches BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. They suggest that faith communities "reach out to treatment [and recovery] programs to offer spiritual support to individuals who desire such assistance." This is something several AFIRE groups have already begun, and we hope that more will work to establish connections.

- The CASA researchers also strongly recommend that clergy be educated about the topic of addiction and become familiar with local treatment options. It's as important for physicians to become educated about the role of religion/spirituality in recovery. Your AFIRE group has access to information that can begin that education/conversation (see the AFIRE portal). Consider setting up meetings to initiate these discussions.
- The CASA report is available for your review in the AFIRE portal. Simply click on the "Books & Other Reading" tab, and scroll down to the CASA logo.
- As always, don't hesitate to contact us at info@apeopleafire.org with any questions!