



WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?





INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the new film "What About the Kids?" a collaboration between Wahl St. Productions and OSV Institute. It's our hope that this film, written and directed James Wahlberg, sparks conversations in communities around the country and ignites a movement of support for our neighbors who are locked in a battle for their lives against addiction.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one in twelve American adults struggled with a substance use disorder in the last year. The most recent data also show us that 10.3 million Americans misused prescription opioids in 2018 alone, and opioid overdoses claim 47,600 lives every year. This epidemic of addiction is ripping through families and communities around the United States, leaving brokenness in its wake.

"What About the Kids?" is an intimate portrait of the true impact of opioid addiction told through the eyes of eight-year-old Chloe whose parents both struggle with drug abuse. Informed by Wahlberg's own journey to sobriety, which is detailed in his book "The Big Hustle," the film highlights the powerful effects of family and faith in defeating the monster of addiction.

Key themes explored in the film and the accompanying discussion guide include:

- Addiction
- Opioid Abuse
- Grief
- Family Dynamics
- Prayer
- Questions of Christian Faith



This is a film that should move, challenge, and encourage us all to reach out to those we know and love who are trapped in destructive patterns. This discussion guide is intended to equip individuals and organizations to initiate important conversations about addiction in America and help those who are suffering on their recovery journey.





ORGANIZING A SCREENING EVENT

In order to help you host a successful screening and discussion on "What About the Kids?" we recommend using the following planning overview as a guide to organizing your event.

LET US KNOW

Once you've decided to host a screening event, please visit whataboutthekidsfilm.com/screening and let us know. This will allow us to make sure you have all the event materials associated with the film and will also enable us to point our audience to local events they may be interested in attending. We'd also love to get updates coming out of your event to showcase the impact partners like you are having in the important work to help families and individuals find healing and hope in their battles with addiction. You can provide photos, stories, and other updates at or tag us on social media at @whataboutthekidsfilm.

GOALS OF SCREENING

It is our hope that Jim Wahlberg's film "What About the Kids?" serves as a starting point for substantive, productive conversations about the impact of substance abuse in our communities and families as well as the role of faith in helping those struggling to achieve sobriety.

We encourage you as an event organizer to take time to consider what you hope your individual event to accomplish. Ask yourself questions like...

- What type of audience are you planning to address?
- What themes might your community most need to engage with?
- What actions/next steps do you hope to inspire in attendees?
- What stakeholders need to be involved?

Defining your goals early will help you to structure your event appropriately. For example, an event addressing a church congregation might focus on informing and inspiring new outreach initiatives, and could incorporate dedicated discussion time for practical application as well as church leadership involvement.





ORGANIZING A SCREENING EVENT

LOGISTICS AND PLANNING TIPS

Outlined below are a few of the logistical considerations for organizing your screening event:

Materials

There are a few pieces of collateral from OSV Films and Wahl St. Productions available for use at your event:

- Introductory video by Jim Wahlberg
- Full-length film "What About the Kids?"
- Supplementary documentary and interview footage featuring a real family in a similar situation as the family portrayed in "What About The Kids?"
- Discussion guide
- Promotional event flyer template and social media graphic
- Promotion for Jim Wahlberg's new memoir "The Big Hustle: A Boston Street Kid's Store of Addiction and Redemption"

Location

It's important to select a space for your event that will provide ample room for attendees as well as accommodate any special programming you may be planning (i.e., breakout group discussions or activities). Some questions to consider:

- Does the space provide/allow for proper A/V equipment?
- Is the space accessible for all attendees (wheelchair accessibility, available parking, reachable by public transportation, etc.)?
- Can I reserve the space for the full length of my event, screening, and discussion?

In light of the ongoing public health crisis, we recognize that screening events may need to be hosted virtually in some locations. And those that are able to take place as live, in-person events will likely need to incorporate appropriate safety and social distancing measures. To help you plan a safe and successful event, we've collected some resources below for you:

- [CDC Guidance for Community Events](#)
- [Tips and Best Practices for Hosting Virtual Events](#)



ORGANIZING A SCREENING EVENT

Facilitators/Speakers

Perhaps the most valuable part of a “What About the Kids?” screening event is the opportunity to discuss the themes and topics addressed by the film. To ensure the most productive and impactful discussion possible, it is important to have a facilitator or facilitators prepared to lead the group’s engagement with the film and one another.

Consider who in your community would be a strong voice to facilitate discussions around the issues of substance abuse and the faith community’s response to those battling addiction.

Additionally, it may be beneficial for your attendees to hear from voices involved in the making of the film. OSV Films is happy to discuss this possibility with you—simply contact us at whataboutthekidsfilm.com/screening.

Promotion

When you’ve solidified the details of your screening event, it’s time to promote the event to your audience. Below are suggestions for spreading the word about your local screening and discussion:

- Post a flyer/poster around your facility
- Add to your organization’s website
- Share your event and registration information on social media
- Ask key stakeholders to share the event with their constituents (church leaders, local recovery organizations, and nonprofits, etc.)
- If your event is open widely to the community, notify local media of your event
- Consider sharing promotional materials in popular community spaces (church resource centers, coffee shop bulletin boards, local businesses, etc.)
- If appropriate, invite local media to attend, being sure to protect any anonymity or privacy your discussions require





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PRODUCTIONS

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