



Fostering New Spaces

Reading: Excerpt from “A New Home” by Mary Lynn St. Lawrence

We are facing a public health challenge that can't be solved by treatment alone. These people, especially the women we work with, just need a community. A young person relies on peers more than family for emotional support, and leaving that group and moving away for recovery is a frightening and sad possibility. To an older person with an established family, leaving home holds a different kind of terror. But, finding new, clean, and sober friends and family is the only exit that holds the possibility of recovery. Imagine spending months in treatment, missing your family, losing your job and then having to enter a new life alone in an empty apartment--with no associates other than those you met in the treatment center. As long as we keep on releasing addicts from incarceration or treatment back into their previous homes, I see little hope for change. New and sustained interpersonal relationships can make a difference.

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