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## *Family is everything and deserves a second chance*

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**MICHAEL J FOX ONCE SAID: “FAMILY IS NOT AN IMPORTANT THING... IT’S EVERYTHING.”** Most of us would do anything for our families and this is true for all of us – rich or poor; strong or weak. For one of our families, addiction to drugs almost cost them their family. They needed to decide what they wanted more.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONTACTED CMR OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE WELLBEING OF TWO YOUNG CHILDREN** aged 7 and 5 years living in their area. The parents were habitual drug users and the children seemed at risk of neglect.

**WHEN THE PARENTS WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE POTENTIAL REMOVAL AND LOSS OF THEIR CHILDREN, THEY WERE SHOCKED** and immediately committed to a rehabilitation intervention plan to overcome their addiction. They were sadly unable to adhere to the plan and could not remain sober. The devastating reality of their failure hit home when as a result, both their children were removed from their care.

Both children and parents were shattered by the split but understood that the drug addiction was putting the family at risk. Faced with the reality of their failings and the torment of losing their children, both parents were desperate for a second chance at intervention and rehabilitation – they loved drugs, but they loved their children more! **THEY WERE UNITED IN GETTING HELP, GETTING BETTER AND GETTING THEIR CHILDREN BACK!**

**THEY NEEDED A SECOND CHANCE; BUT THEY ALSO NEEDED SUPPORT.....**The process was slow and incremental at first. Visitation was permitted based on the parents taking drug tests prior to visits. With time, the children visited the parents at their home. The parents kept focused and committed to the responsibility of parenting and regularly attended the parental guidance workshops run by CMR. They faced their challenges with addiction by receiving ongoing therapeutic sessions and support offered by the CMR team. Approximately one year later, both mother and father had jointly managed to turn their lives around and their children could return home. Today the parents are both employed and have been sober for 2 years!

