

Dru Driver, M.Ed., President of Healing Helpers

I attended Texas A & M University, Texarkana where I received my Bachelor of Science in Education. My focus was early childhood. I began my career in education in 1984. Later, I received my Master of Education with a certification in counseling. Presently, I am in the process of obtaining a certification in Special Education Diagnostician. In 1996, I began my career as a counselor in a small rural school in Northeast Texas where I was responsible for the testing, curricular, and special population coordination, along with the counseling of students from PK-12th grade in the public school setting.

Being in a rural setting has allowed me to see the impact that drug and substance abuse has on children. This, combined with the presence of drug/substance abuse in my brother and how it has been perpetuated through my nieces and nephew has compelled me, as well as my husband Tom, to establish Healing Helpers.

To see children in the third grade, whose parents or older siblings are involved in drugs/substance abuse, and to hear them tell me that they will never do drugs, and then to see them four to six years later engaging in risk taking behaviors with few or no protective factors to fall back on--well, that is a problem that we all need to address because in the end, it will impact us all.

Many people do not understand the implications that drugs and substances such as "meth" are having on society. Every system in our culture becomes overwhelmed with the pervasiveness of this problem. Our health care systems, our law-enforcement systems, our judicial systems, and our educational systems are bearing the brunt of drug and substance abuse and we are all paying.

The most successful approach to date to combat this problem is a multidimensional approach involving the community and every protective factor that the community has to offer, and in today's world, the community is global.