



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Debi Gasper
The Ad Agency
(o) 202-342-2122
(m) 202-360-8399
dgasper@theadagency.com

WRITTEN OFF **A Gripping Personal Narrative Documentary Tackling the Opioid Crisis, Premieres in Washington, D.C.**

Funded by Second Genesis Foundation: "Help for Addiction. Hope for the Community"

Tuesday, June 27: *Written Off*

A Feature Documentary Film Premiere
Newseum
Knight Conference Center, 7th Floor
555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Subjects: Opioid Crisis, Drug Addiction and Treatment, Heroin Task Force

Interviewees: Ross Little, Chairman, Second Genesis Foundation
US Representative Ann Kuster
Co-Chair, Bipartisan Heroin Task Force
Molly Hermann, *Written Off*, Director and Writer
Rob Lyall, *Written Off*, Producer
Judge Nelson Rupp, Montgomery County 6th Circuit Court
Presiding Judge, Adult Drug Treatment Court
Ana Marie Cox, Senior Political Correspondent, MTV News
Jane Funk, *Written Off*, Matt Edwards' Mother
Bob DuPont, President, Institute for Behavior and Health



Schedule:

- 6:30 - 7:00 Welcome Reception catered by The Source by Wolfgang Puck
- 7:00 - 7:30 Opening Remarks:
Ross Little, Second Genesis
US Representative Ann Kuster
- 7:30 - 9:00 Film Screening
- 9:00 - 9:30 Panel Discussion Moderated by Wendy Rieger, NBC 4 News Anchor:
Molly Hermann
Ana Marie Cox
Jane Funk

Washington, D.C. — *WRITTEN OFF* tells the story of Matt Edwards, a young man who became addicted to opiates after a doctor prescribed pain medication to help with a minor health issue. Over the next decade, Matt struggled with a growing addiction, eventually succumbing to a heroin overdose.

The filmmakers, Molly Hermann and Rob Lyall, are able to tell his story through the use of home movies, interviews with friends and family members and excerpts from his journals. The story is a poignant and emotional window into the reality of individuals and families who are dealing with this national epidemic.

How does a smart, loving, promising kid go from acting in the high school play to putting a needle in his arm? *WRITTEN OFF* reveals that journey, in Matt's own words—with a twist—the commonly held assumptions are all wrong. He isn't weak—only someone strong could survive an addiction like his for ten years. He isn't shirking responsibility—he blames himself for everything. Behind the addiction, there is a person—all at once lovable and despicable, funny and pathetic, destructive and aware of his failings.

Like the early days of the HIV crisis, blaming the victim is the first thing that needs to change. *WRITTEN OFF* can do for addiction what Philadelphia did for HIV.

Festivals and Awards: Arizona International Film Festival: *Best Documentary*, Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, Omaha International Film Festival: *Best Documentary*, Ridgefield Independent Film Festival, Richmond International Film Festival: *Best Screenplay*, Green Bay Film Festival, IndieFEST: *Award of Excellence*, 2016 Humanitarian Award, Utopia Film Festival, Weyauwega International Film Festival: *Best Documentary*, LA Awareness Fest.

It is the hope of the Second Genesis Foundation that through events like this screening, the Foundation can contribute in a small way to increase public awareness on addiction prevention and treatment.

View Trailer: <http://www.written-off.com/>

For additional information on the Second Genesis Foundation please visit <http://www.secondgenesis.org>

For exclusive interviews with interviewees, please contact Debi Gasper at: dgasper@theadagency.com
202-360-8399

Second Genesis Foundation is a Maryland 501(c)3 organization formed in 2016. For nearly 50 years our predecessor entity, Second Genesis, Inc., provided substance abuse treatment to thousands of patients in the Washington, DC region. As part of its strategic plan and in response to changing market conditions, the Second Genesis Board phased out treatment operations, sold real estate assets and formed the Second Genesis Foundation. Now the mission of the Second Genesis Foundation is to fund organizations and institutions and develop partnerships with substance abuse entities in the areas of prevention, education, diagnosis and treatment with the objective of empowering individuals to experience healthy drug-free lives.

###