TARGETS

- Over 28 million children in the United States are children of alcoholics. Of these, 50% will grow up to become alcoholics themselves.

- One in five children is molested by the age of 18.

- 1.5 million children run away from home each year as a result of these and other problems.

What happens to these children? We automatically conjure up nightmares of drug abuse, domestic violence, even death. But these imagined horrors do not have to happen. Children and teenagers have innate abilities to survive and to cope with even the worst situations, particularly when they find some kind of help.

The greatest danger for these children - and for society as a whole - is invisible. It lies not in the external hardships themselves, but in the self-blaming image these children grow to have of themselves. This identity, the identity of "victim," draws victimizers like a magnet.

INTENDED AUDIENCES
Junior and senior high school students.

OBJECTIVES
- To learn what a victim is and how to avoid "acting like a victim."
- To discover that they are not alone, even with the most embarrassing problems.
- To realize that it is important to tell and get support from people who can help.
- To begin to take responsibility for their own lives and actions.

SYNOPSIS
As the film opens, a group of five teenagers is seen partying around a car in an isolated area. It is hinted that despite their outward appearance of enjoying themselves, they are actually covering up inner problems.
The party moves to the road and ends in a near-fatal car wreck. As the young people begin to realize what has happened, a drill sergeant type angel comes to them and forces each to look at his or her life. The angel tells the teenagers that if they work out their inhibitions, they will be given a second chance at life.

Four types of victimization are analyzed: battering, sexual molestation, peer pressure, and having to cope with an alcoholic parent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. It is often said that women are more likely to become victims, while men are more likely to become victimizers. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
2. Think about something you’ve done that you didn’t want to do. Why did you do it? What would help stop you from doing it again?
3. Could you identify a victim just by looking at him or her? What kind of posture, facial expression, tone of voice, and walk would you notice?
4. Think of several people that you consider non-victims. Write down some of their important characteristics. What do they have in common?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES
1. Most people have victimized themselves at least once by setting themselves up to fail. This happens in relationships, at work, at school, and at home. Have you or a friend ever set yourself up for failure? How?
2. List 10 reasons why it is hard to say “no” to a loved one.
3. Everyone has some days when they are more like victims; others when they are more like non-victims. How do you act when you are feeling good about yourself? What about when you are feeling bad?

MTI Film and Video
Length: 19 minutes

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