



THE MARTINSBURG INITIATIVE

A Police/School/Community Partnership
Preventing Opioid Addiction, Building Strong Families,
and Empowering Communities

What is The Martinsburg Initiative?

The Martinsburg Initiative is a new partnership between schools, the police, and the community to prevent heroin addiction, build strong families, and make our neighborhoods safe, stable, and secure. The Martinsburg Initiative is based on the science of the Adverse Childhood Experiences study, known as the ACEs study. It shows how early childhood experience shapes the lives of adults.

The Martinsburg Initiative is currently being piloted at Winchester Avenue Elementary School and Burke Street Elementary School and is here to stay. It's not a program that will be limited to one school-year. As long as your family wants to participate; we will work together to make your child healthier, your family stronger, and your neighborhood better.

How will it help my child and my family?

The family experiences children have early in life shapes what their lives will be like as adults. Traumatic childhood experiences increase the risks of future:

- Addiction to heroin, other drugs, and alcoholism.
- Depression and Mental illness.
- Suicide.

The Martinsburg Initiative will work with your family to eliminate these early negative experiences in our children's lives by:

- Making our neighborhood school the hub of positive community activity.
- Mentoring programs and more after-school activities.
- Domestic violence and parenting classes in our neighborhood school.
- Assistance with substance abuse, mental health issues and family counseling.

How do we know these childhood experiences will lead to problems in my child as an adult?

Read about Angie's story.

Angie is 43 years old and lives here in Martinsburg. Let's look at Angie's story to get a better idea of how ACEs affect people's lives:

As a young girl, Angie grew up in a family where her dad went to prison for selling drugs. Her mom divorced her dad after he went to jail, got a boyfriend named Joey, and let Joey move into their home. After Joey moved in, he would beat her mom in front of Angie and her brother. Angie's mom started to drink alcohol every day, became a drug user, and eventually suffered from mental illness. Pretty soon, Joey started to physically abuse Angie and her brother—first with spankings and later with beatings. Before Angie finished high school, she moved out of the house and never came back.

Angie had six Adverse Childhood Experiences—what happened to her? The ACEs study tells us that a person with six Adverse Childhood Experiences is 4,600% more likely to become a heroin addict than a person with zero ACEs. Angie became a heroin addict. Angie also is alcoholic, became depressed, attempted suicide twice, contracted Hepatitis, and couldn't hold down a regular job for almost 20 years. After a lot of counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, and through her renewed faith; Angie is much better now, but the adverse experiences of her childhood changed her life forever.

By eliminating and reducing the ACEs in your family, we can make sure that Angie's story, won't be your child's story.

How will The Martinsburg Initiative work?

- The Initiative is voluntary. We need you and your family's cooperation to make it work. It will start with a meeting including parents, a school counselor and administrator, and an officer representing the Martinsburg Police Department's community policing initiatives.
- We will talk about how we can work together to address and solve issues and challenges that your family may be facing and the ACEs that your child may be exposed to.
- We will work together to identify ways to reduce and eliminate these negative experiences.

How can I learn more?

Visit us online at MartinsburgPD.org/martinsburg-initiative or call: Tiffany Hendershot—304.267.3570, Teresa Weller—304.267.3525, or Lieutenant Scott Doyle—304.264.2100 EXT 227.

THREE CATEGORIES OF ACEs

ABUSE	NEGLECT	HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION	
Physical	Physical	Mental Illness	Incarcerated Relative
Emotional	Emotional	Mother treated violently	Substance Abuse
Sexual		Divorce	

INCREASED HEALTH RISKS LINKED TO ACEs

BEHAVIOR				
Lack of physical activity	Smoking	Alcoholism	Drug use	Missed work
PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH				
Severe obesity	Diabetes	Depression	Suicide attempts	STDs
Heart disease	Cancer	Stroke	COPD	Broken bones

