

Kingdom County Productions

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PRESS RELEASE

Kingdom County Productions
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The Hungry Heart –award winning film on opiate addiction to play St. Dominic’s Catholic Church

The Hungry Heart a new documentary film on prescription drug addiction and recovery in Vermont will screen on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 6:30pm at St. Dominic’s Catholic Church Gymnasium located at 6300 block of Memphis Street, New Orleans, LA in Lakeview. Director, Bess O’Brien will run a Q and A after the screenings. Come and be part of an important conversation about this pressing issue which President Donald Trump declared a national emergency.



The Hungry Heart was honored by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin during his January State of the State in which he devoted his entire speech to the opiate epidemic in Vermont. Since the Governor’s ambitious initiative to deal with the rising prescription drug and heroin addiction in Vermont **The Hungry Heart** has been featured on many national press and media outlets including the ABC Evening News, The New York Times, Al Jazeera television, The Boston Globe, NPR’s On Point, WBUR’s Radio Boston and MSNBC.

The Hungry Heart is the 2015 winner of the outstanding media award from the American Academy of Addiction Medicine.

The film has toured across New England to more than 100 towns and was presented in Washington, DC by Senator Patrick Leahy and Michael Botticelli the Acting Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. **The Hungry Heart** produced by Kingdom County Productions provides an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction through the work of Vermont Pediatrician Fred Holmes whose patients struggle with this disease.

Dr. Holmes works closely with his patients to provide them with therapy and out-patient programs. In addition, Dr. Holmes is part of the Suboxone treatment program. Much like Methadone, Suboxone helps many addicts in their recovery process-- for some taking Suboxone is a crucial stepping stone to long term recovery, for others Suboxone is abused and diverted onto the street. Through the film we see Dr. Holmes struggling with these challenges and trying to make sense and keep the faith in the midst of many contradictions.

But the film is not ultimately about Suboxone or the medical treatment these young people receive from Dr. Holmes. It is about the simple but profound connection that Dr. Holmes creates with each patient and how important listening and respect is for these young addicts as part of their recovery process. The film shines a light on the healing power of conversation and the need for connection that many of these young addicts yearn for but do not have in their lives.

In addition, the film interviews a number of older addicts and family members who share their stories of struggle and redemption. The road to recovery is paved with both success stories and strewn with relapses, downfalls and tragic losses. However, through the movie we see the many faces and diverse populations of addiction, and their continued search for a life of recovery.

Best-selling author David Sheff who wrote the book *Beautiful Boy* about his own son's addiction called *The Hungry Heart* "A brilliant and beautiful film that captures the true lives of people in recovery." MSNBC called the film "deeply moving."

Geoff Kane, MD and Chief of Addiction Services at Brattleboro Retreat raves, "*The Hungry Heart* displays the unflinching honesty necessary for addiction recovery. Dr. Fred Holmes displays the unwavering respect, hope, and accountability that people need to get there."

The Hungry Heart opens up dialogue around many issues connected to addiction and recovery and serves as a jumping off point for discussion and action steps that many of our communities need.

To watch a trailer of the film or for more information go to www.kingdomcounty.org or call 802-357-4616.

