Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative, Inc.


This report represents Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative, Inc.’s responses to Charting Impact, a joint project of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar USA Inc, and Independent Sector. Charting Impact uses five simple yet powerful questions to encourage strategic thinking and help organizations share concise information about their plans and progress toward impact.

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**Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative, Inc.**
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**Mission:**
Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in April of 2004 to assist troubled teens and their families struggling with substance abuse and other emotional issues. Saving Teens works with health organizations, educational consultants, wilderness programs, boarding schools, rehabilitation centers and educational lawyers to fund and support families with financial limitations as they complete the comprehensive therapeutic programs that they desperately need, but may not be able to afford.

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The content of this Charting Impact Report is the sole product and responsibility of Saving Teens In Crisis Collaborative, Inc.. This report does not in any way represent an endorsement from Independent Sector, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, or GuideStar, nor does it represent fulfillment of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. For more information on Charting Impact, visit www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact
1. What are we aiming to accomplish?

SavingTeens aims to support struggling teens in their journey towards wellness. By developing partnerships with educational consultants and therapeutic programs, we are ensuring that financially strapped families with troubled teens are able to access services that would otherwise be unattainable for them. Our consultants work with our families on a pro-bono basis to identify the best therapeutic program for their child. We partner with therapeutic programs to negotiate scholarships and discounts to allow these young people to access care. The safety net that we develop allows family contribution, SavingTeens funds, and discounted or pro-bono services to fund a young person's recovery. Wilderness programs and therapeutic boarding schools have proven results in intervening with the most desperate adolescents. And yet, the industry, which gets little support from health insurance companies or public funding, is extremely expensive. SavingTeens hopes to build awareness of the need for more private funds to support families that cannot afford these effective interventions. Every family should be afforded the opportunity to save their child. Without these interventions, a troubled child risks a future of drug addiction, mental illness, and suicide. Wilderness programs and therapeutic boarding schools should not only be available to the rich. SavingTeens hopes to close this gap for the most needy of families. In the next five years we hope to serve as the preferred charity for the therapeutic industry. Our goal is to serve as an entry for families who need therapeutic care but do not have the ability to pay for the cost of treatment. Through our services we hope to advocate for the needs of families of troubled teens. With increased outreach, SavingTeens can raise awareness about the necessity for increased funding and support for these struggling families. With more than 15 requests for applications for assistance each month, we are turning away far too many families who are trying to save their children. We hope that there will come a time when our partnerships and donations allow us to fund every family that needs help with a troubled teen.

2. What are our strategies for making this happen?

SavingTeens outreaches to the therapeutic care community to spread our message. Identified as a preferred non-profit by NATSAP (National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs), SavingTeens communicates closely with all NATSAP members and programs. We negotiate partnerships and scholarships within the industry and raise awareness about our funds and services. In addition, we work with the therapeutic community to spread the word to their clients and alumni. Needy families are directed towards SavingTeens' Application for Assistance. Our dedicated Program Committee reviews every application and carefully vets each applicant. Each funded family works closely with our volunteer educational consultant to develop the best course of action for the young person. Our Development Committee works closely with programs and services to provide quality care to our families. Wilderness programs and therapeutic boarding schools agree to partner with SavingTeens to provide scholarships and discounts to our troubled teens. These scholarships, partnered with SavingTeens funds, and family contribution allows families to provide the needed care for their child. SavingTeens is different from other scholarship organizations in the breadth of our services. SavingTeens make a commitment to follow their recipients through their entire journey to recovery. This often constitutes a 6-12 month commitment which includes: evaluation, wilderness program, therapeutic boarding school, and aftercare. We've made this commitment because we know that many young people need more support than a three month wilderness program, that mental illness and addiction require a long-term solution not a short-term fix. By making this promise to these families we hope to provide a path to full recovery for our young people.

3. What are our organization's capabilities for doing this?

With an entirely volunteer Board of Directors, SavingTeens has developed a core group of tremendously skilled, passionate workers. Spanning the therapeutic industry, SavingTeens volunteers include: educational consultants, program directors, marketing specialists, and parents. They possess the skills and necessary connections that allow for effective achievement of our goals. Our volunteers are strong advocates for SavingTeens and are expert at spreading our goals and mission throughout the industry. Most wilderness programs and therapeutic schools are for-profit entities, yet the services they

provide lend themselves towards philanthropy. NATSAP (National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs) has determined that SavingTeens is one of the few philanthropic endeavors vetted by the industry. The NATSAP community is willing to give generously to SavingTeens and spread the mission to their clients and families. The therapeutic industry is excited to provide support to SavingTeens. As we enter our second decade, SavingTeens has committed to the future longevity and development of the organization. To that end, SavingTeens has hired a non-profit management consultant to serve as Director of Development. A dedicated, paid consultant is now focused on the future of SavingTeens. This role focuses on communication, marketing, client services, and programatic growth. Through this development, SavingTeens is increasingly transparent, organized, and proactive to the needs of their supporters and clients.

4. How will we know if we're making progress?

True accomplishment of SavingTeens goals would be an increase in families we are able to support. At this time we are serving 10-15 families a year with monetary support. Quantitatively, success will be measured by increasing (15-20) our families served with SavingTeens funds and advocacy. In addition, we aim to support 10-20 families through our Parent Support Program. These parents will gain assistance in negotiating the confusing world of therapeutic care. They will learn strategies to advocate for themselves and their children in this process. Every SavingTeen family receives entrance interviews and exit interviews. These qualitative measures allow us to track the effectiveness of our interventions and the clarity of our processes. We strive to have 100% effectiveness of our interventions. Because of our long-term commitment to families we believe that all of our funded families will have significant improvement in the mental health and behavior of their troubled teen and will learn skills to support their family as they move through treatment.

5. What have and haven't we accomplished so far?

The last year has produced major changes for SavingTeens. The establishment of the Thomas E. Bratter Scholarship has introduced major funds and new energy to SavingTeens. These funds have allowed SavingTeens to expand it’s focus to more concentrated services to our families and fund more families per year. In addition, The Bratter Scholarship has introduced two new Board members to SavingTeens, plus a large community of donors who are committed to the mission of Thomas Bratter and are interested in supporting the goals of SavingTeens. These new volunteers have introduced a new energy to SavingTeens and have improved our scope. In addition, the recent appointment of the Executive Director has helped to clarify the role of SavingTeens in the therapeutic care community. A careful and thorough needs assessment has resulted in a refocusing of our outreach tools. SavingTeens has committed its focus to transparency and improved communication with constituents. To that end, we have just launched a new, clearer web site. This has allowed us to be more proactive to the needs of applicants and partners. In addition, SavingTeens has an improved communication plan which includes: press releases, e-mail blasts, newsletters, and bi-annual appeals. In addition, SavingTeens is strengthening its relationship with NATSAP in order to advocate for continued philanthropy in the therapeutic care industry.