



NEWS RELEASE

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Award Winning Documentary Comes to Idaho Falls: The Story of Six High School Students with Behavioral Issues Make A Dramatic Change

- *Focus on the issues facing teens today*
- *How Trauma-Informed Education works*
- *Dramatic results seen by Lincoln Alternative High School*

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (Oct. 13, 2016) – Optum Idaho in partnership with the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund, The Speedy Foundation and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health is bringing the highly acclaimed and award winning documentary, *Paper Tigers*, to eastern Idaho.

Paper Tigers is a film that follows six high school students from Lincoln Alternative High School in Walla Walla, Washington where some of the students are emotionally stressed, living in danger and filled with pain. This film takes a close look at what is called Trauma-Informed Education, a movement that is showing incredible results in helping students struggling with the dark legacy of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). *Paper Tigers* captures how their teachers, who were ready to try a new way of educating these struggling students and positively changing their lives forever.

“Many children in our schools are getting in trouble or falling behind because of child or adolescent trauma that is beyond their control. *Paper Tigers* brings these issues to light and provides a tangible solution to help these children make a complete change for the better,” said Georganne Benjamin, executive director of Optum Idaho.

A free public screening of *Paper Tigers* will be held on today (Thursday), October 13 in Idaho Falls from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. MDT at University Place. Admission is free.

“Every school in every community has children who are suffering. By bringing this to light and addressing the problem in public, we are providing the opportunity to consider a new approach to helping our children,” said Shannon Decker, director of The Speedy Foundation.

The results of a Trauma-Informed Education speak for themselves. Lincoln Alternative High School former principal Jim Sporleder was able to turn his school around by dramatically decreasing out-of-school suspensions, increasing graduation rates and students going on to get a post secondary education.

“We are fortunate to have this feature film in our community and make it available for parents, teachers, health care providers and community members,” said Benjamin.

The film is free to all those who want to attend and a panel discussion will immediately follow. Please make not that the film does contain profanity and may not be suitable for young children.

Paper Tigers is directed by James Redford and executive producer Karen Pritzker.

About Optum Idaho

Optum Idaho manages the outpatient behavioral health benefits for Idaho Behavioral Health Plan members and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Optum is responsible for ensuring that appropriate and adequate behavioral health services that support the practices of recovery and resiliency are available. More information is available at www.optumidaho.com.

About Idaho Children’s Trust Fund

The Idaho Children's Trust Fund is the state affiliate Prevent Child Abuse America. We provide funding, training and technical assistance to community-based programs working to strengthen families in order to prevent child abuse and neglect in Idaho.

About The Speedy Foundation

The Speedy Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing suicide, supporting mental health and promoting conversations to end the stigma surrounding both. It was formed in 2011 in the loving memory of Jeret “Speedy” Peterson, an Olympic freestyle aerials medalist whose life was characterized by his service to others. Speedy ended his life in July 2011 at age 29.

About Idaho Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health

The Idaho Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health is a statewide Parent and Youth directed non-profit organization. IFFCMH serves as the ID Statewide Family Network and ID affiliate of Youth MOVE National. IFFCMH offers assistance to youth and parents seeking or receiving mental health services. Programs include youth support and education groups statewide, an on-going series of streamed educational webinars, statewide Youth MOVE program, and Family Support Partner certification training program. Find us at idahofederation.org and on Face Book.

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