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For Immediate Release

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Substance Abuse a Major Factor in Child Abuse and Neglect *Drug Dealers and Children a Dangerous Mix*

(St. Petersburg, FL) Yesterday, a Bradenton man was arrested for leading the Florida highway patrol on a chase down I-75 with 40 pounds of marijuana in his car - along with three children.

According to the Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee, approximately 50% to 80% of all child abuse and neglect cases involve some degree of substance abuse by caregivers. In fact, substance abuse by the parent or guardian continues to be one of the highest risk factors for child fatality.

“Drugs and alcohol play a major role in child abuse cases and I believe more awareness about this connection is needed to combat this growing issue,” said Calvin Fay, executive director of Drug Free America Foundation. “I am outraged by the events that unfolded in Bradenton. So many claim marijuana is a harmless drug – but it obviously drove this guy to risk the lives of his three children.”

“Drug abuse is fast becoming the number one health issue in the United States. It is superseding cancer and heart disease in costs and deaths. It also seriously affects children. At least 67% of parents with children in the child welfare system need treatment for substance abuse. We need to do something and we need to do it now,” concluded Fay.

If you would like to set up an interview about this issue with Calvin Fay, please contact Lana Beck at **(727) 828-0211 or (727) 403-7571**.

Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to fighting drug use, drug addiction and drug trafficking and to promoting effective sound drug policies, education and prevention. For more discussion, please visit our blog at www.dfaf.org.

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