



## **Guide for Professionals and Families: Referring a Child to the Kids Like Us Program (KLU)**

**KLU is for Frederick County, Maryland public school students in grades 4 and above who are directly and currently impacted by the alcohol/drug misuse of a caregiver or parent.**

### **The most common situations in which this would occur are:**

- The child is living in a home where at least one parent/caregiver currently with an addictive or alcohol/drug use disorder, or is early in the recovery process.
- The child has regular visitation (two or more times per month) with a parent/caregiver with an addictive or alcohol/drug use disorder.

There are also other ways children's lives are directly and currently impacted by substance misuse among parents/guardians or other family members. These referrals are considered on a case-by-case basis through discussion with the KLU Director, 301-600-3281.

### **Referral Criteria**

- **Student is impacted by familial alcohol/drug misuse as described above**
- **Student has parent/guardian permission to participate**
- **KLU is offered at the individual's elementary, middle, or high school**

### **How to Refer a Child for Enrollment**

Most KLU participants are enrolled through their school counselor. However, referrals from mental health professionals, teachers, family members, and others are invited and encouraged.

**Make a Referral through the Student's School Counselor** – Directly contact the child's school counselor to discuss enrollment.

**Make a Referral through Kids Like Us** - Directly contact the Kids Like Us Program Director, Julie Wood Merchant at 301-600-3281 to inquire about enrollment.

### **Documents Needed to Refer Students to KLU:**

- [Kids Like Us Program Referral Form](#)
- [Parent-Guardian Permission Form](#)