

ANITA BAGLANEAS DEVLIN
GUEST SPEAKER

Anita Baglaneas Devlin is a recovery advocate and co-author of a compelling new memoir entitled **S.O.B.E.R.***. Anita writes of how she and her family felt during the harrowing experience of helping her son navigate his addiction, which eventually led to his recovery and the recovery of her entire family. Her son & co-author, Michael Devlin Jr., has been sober for more than six years. Her message is one of hope and faith.

S.O.B.E.R.* is uniquely written from two perspectives, simultaneously: Anita, grappling with the stigma of her son's addiction, fearing for her son's life and struggling to understand the disease of addiction; alongside Michael, suffering emotionally and physically while in the grips of the disease, and his empowering message of recovery after months in treatment. Theirs is a story of struggle, hope and faith that has been called by many "a family love story." Addiction professionals have raved about the book, which aims to put real faces to the disease.

Anita is a member of the SAMSHA approved speaker's bureau, *Speakers For Change*, and speaks around the country.

Anita is an advocate for mothers, who have children suffering from addiction. She offers support and advice by speaking at parenting groups and treatment centers from coast to coast. She also makes the time to speak to any parent who needs her support, aiming to make them understand that they are not alone. Anita's message always includes that addiction is a family disease: the whole family needs to be in recovery/therapy in order for everyone to heal.

Woman's Day magazine recently did a feature story on Anita and her work in the recovery field. She was also featured on PBS NewsHour reciting an essay she wrote about substance use disorder and recovery. Anita has appeared in *WebMD*, *Huffington Post*, *OWN*, *Renew Magazine* and *US News* and *World Report* and many more. She is the co-director of a new foundation called "Above the Noise". The foundation will focus on families affected by addiction and the opportunity to heal together through the power of music at sober concerts around the country.

Anita lives in Rye, New York with her husband Michael. They have two children, Michael and Alexandra.

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