

Let's Circle Up

Role Play: Community Meets

SCENARIO #2

Mitch, driving while drunk and high, switched lanes to pass a school bus and crashed head-on with a car coming in the opposite direction. Margie, the driver of the other car, and her two sons were severely injured. Her eight-year-old son in the back seat suffered a neck injury. Her ten-year-old in the passenger seat suffered bruised ribs. And Margie suffered broken ribs, gashes to her head and nose, and a broken cheek bone. The car was totaled.

Surprisingly, Mitch and his friend Omar, who rode in the passenger seat, were not hurt badly. The car shut down from the damage, preventing Mitch from driving away. Many people witnessed the crash, including the school bus driver and kids.

The police arrived quickly, saw that Mitch was highly intoxicated, and took him in. The car was unregistered and his license had been suspended for a year. Margie and her sons were taken to the hospital where they stayed for days. Word of the crash and Mitch's arrest immediately spread through the community.

People are fed up with the harm and violence that a recent spike in heroin use has brought to the area. Tommy, a community organizer, decides to call a meeting at a local school gym to discuss the problem. Word is that Mitch's father Dan is planning to post bail for Mitch.

Mitch is twenty-two, unemployed, and dropped out of school in tenth grade. He has two children, six and four, but is not in contact with either. He spends most of his time chasing drugs. He had a bright future as a kid, before he started using. He has served a few minor jail sentences but this is his most serious case.

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Roles for Role Play: Community Meets

SCENARIO #2

Roles*

- **Margie**—driver of car that got crashed into
- **Rob**—Margie's husband
- **Dan**—Mitch's father
- **Tommy**—community organizer
- **Al**—school bus driver
- **Officer Harvey**—neighborhood police officer
- **Rep. Cole Nelson**—State Representative of 23rd District
- **Troy**—concerned and fearful citizen
- **Reverend Peters**—pastor of local church
- **Big Lou**—neighborhood store owner
- **Carl**—community recreation center worker
- **Alicia**—mother of three
- **Jake**—Margie's brother
- **Sam**—owner of barber shop
- **Tone**—formerly incarcerated citizen
- **DJ Smalls**—local radio disk jockey
- **Nate**—former high school classmate and friend of Mitch
- **Barb**—crossing guard
- **Mrs. Rodriguez**—local high school teacher
- **Rachel**—nurse at local hospital

*Character names and pronouns can be changed to fit different gender needs of a workshop group.