

May 24, 2017

I am writing this letter today to voice my support for HeroinKillsNJ.org.

A little bit of my story.....This time around, on May 3rd, we began to find help for our 28 year old daughter who is a heroin addict. We initially started with an intake appointment through a 1-800 number and we were then given a number to apply and get approved for county funding. We were then told we would just have to call every morning to check on bed availability. After a few days, I began to realize that "Help is NOT within reach" when you are trying to get help for an addict. Sure....getting her into rehab was quite easy when she was still covered under my husband's insurance plan but once she turned 26, it became very challenging.

Fast forward...and two weeks later, on May 17th, we were still not successful in getting her into a detox facility due to places being full and no beds available. My daughter (or I) literally called every single day for availability. It became very frustrating.

I then remembered how I came across the FaceBook page for Heroin Kills NJ. I sent a private message to them pretty much venting and asking if they could point me in any other direction. I quickly received a reply back with a telephone number and was told to call Red and he would be able to help. I gave the number to my daughter, she talked to Red, and the next day we were meeting him and he was taking her to a detox facility.

There has been so much constant support from this organization in the short amount of time since contacting them. We definitely need people like Red, Judy and Karen in our communities. In fact, we actually need more people like them to help with their organization in order to provide help and support not only the addict but to provide support and to help educate the family members who are affected. Families are left being scarred and young children are left having to grow up in our communities without a parent and being raised by grandparents. Those children will grow up all too soon, some without parents, and have many questions and perhaps issues to deal with. So, as far as I can see, the volume of support needed by communities needs to increase and consistently be available now and for the future. This disease isn't going away any time soon.

And who better to provide that support than people who have been there. People who know and understand what individuals and families are going through and help them get through it. Whether you're the addict looking for help or a family member looking for a shoulder to cry on, Heroin Kills NJ wants to be there for you. I can tell you that each morning during the two weeks when I called the facility to check on bed availability, I didn't get a compassionate person on the phone. I got a person who seemed annoyed and rushed in the job they were doing. That's not what you are going to get with people like Red, Judy and Karen.

This epidemic is huge and it is killing a generation of our young adult population. The fact that after two weeks I wasn't able to get my daughter into a facility is proof of that.

Heroin Kills NJ wants to help their communities and I'm sure their volunteer base will grow once more people know about them and begin to reach out for help or to become a part of helping others dealing with this terrible epidemic.

Thank you for listening.

