



THOMAS' HOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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October 15, 2019

I am, unfortunately, the President and Founder of Thomas' Hope Foundation Inc. because on March 14, 2019, I became a member of a club that no parent should EVER belong to – my 21-year-old son, Thomas, succumbed to Substance Use Disorder, specifically a fatal heroin overdose.

THOMAS' HOPE FOUNDATION was established in March 2013 and is dedicated to promoting drug addiction awareness, prevention, and achieving victory for those individuals seeking sobriety through education, advocacy, research and treatment.

Thomas' Hope was established because my son's experience was, he always had to fail at outpatient treatment repeatedly before ever receiving at most 5-7 days' inpatient treatment. Thomas' Hope provides the support, compassion, empathy, guidance and education that I wished I had while trying to navigate treatment for Substance Use Disorder.

THOMAS' HOPE FOUNDATION'S offices are located in Holtsville and provides resources, support, education, empowerment and access to treatment with placement and transportation for identified persons. We support the Identified Person (IP) struggling with Substance Use Disorder and also support the entire family affected by their loved one's suffering. Certified Peer Recovery Coaches (CRPA) are hearts with ears. CRPA's meet the patient where they are and work together with them to get the help the IP needs, and is willing work towards. Our Coaches also provide a parallel path for the family and loved ones to achieve their own recovery regardless of their loved one's journey.

THOMAS' HOPE FOUNDATION offers the following services:

- * **Individual Support**
- * **Linkage to Treatment**
- * **Family Support**
- * **Sibling Support**
- * **Community Based Services**
- * **Certified Recovery Coaches**
- * **Education & Empowerment**

Thomas' Hope Foundation collaborates with OUTREACH Development Corp., CK Post ATC, South Beach ATC, Creedmoor ATC and Bronx ATC. We provide Peer recovery coaches within the inpatient treatment facilities to add additional support for a healthier outcome. Thomas' Hope assists in the discharge and wrap around services for the patient upon their discharge. The Addiction Treatment Centers are NYS funded and operated under the supervision of NYS OASAS. Insurance is never a barrier in these facilities.

Community and connection are the keys to long term recovery. Family and loved ones receiving services including education and healthier boundaries with their loved ones is essential to long term success.



Additional steps to reduce overdoses and deaths due to overdose are:

- **HOUSING-**

Affordable housing and safe recovery homes are in zero supply on Long Island. NYS and local counties lack of invested dollars into treatment and homelessness is a huge barrier to maintaining sobriety. SPA (Single Point of Access) applications are completed and submitted with absolutely no chance of obtaining housing.

Women dealing with their own personal substance use and the additional stigma and judgement that is inherently inflicted by society is a barrier that must be addressed.

Housing for women to remain with their children in a supported environment is essential to long term recovery. Thomas' Hope would love to see the empty state owned buildings at Pilgrim State and Kings Park be converted into affordable housing.

- **CHILDREN SERVICES-**

Children dealing with their parents and other family member's substance use and/or being raised by grandparents with no outlet for guidance and therapy will undoubtedly be at a higher risk of making unhealthy decisions.

The time to change our future generations is now! We need to provide additional community resources for children and their families or foster families to break the cycle.

How to support the success of people in long-term recovery

- **RESTORING DRIVER'S LICENSE**

People with long-term recovery need to be treated with dignity and respect. Citizens of New York State with sustained recovery deserve a face to face hearing with a high level official from the Department of Motor Vehicle and not receive a form letter with no rights to appeal.

Shame and stigma needs to be extinguished on all levels.

How to decrease the number of individuals incarcerated as a result of Substance Use Disorder

- **DRUG COURT**

A drug court similar to the one being utilized in Buffalo should be established throughout New York State.

Thomas Hope believes in and would be honored to facilitate transport from court directly to treatment rather incarceration.