



August 1, 2019

Dear Executive and Friend,

I am writing to you along with my good friend Kevin Meara, Founder of the City of Angels, NJ. The City of Angels has helped hundreds of families in need who are impacted by the heroin/opioid epidemic. Although many treatment centers charge thousands for help, the City of Angels provides recovery coaching, family support, and assistance at no charge, and we are moving into assisted post-treatment care when it is critically needed. We depend on raising every dollar from fundraisers and help from small community donations.

As Mayor of Hamilton in 2008 -2013 I embraced the City of Angles as a partner in the fight against opioid addiction and other drugs. I knew that this was a massive undertaking, and the government could not do it alone. The City of Angels volunteers has worked tirelessly to "SAVE LIVES." As I write this letter, opioid prescriptions and illicit drugs are the primary drivers of drug overdose deaths, in fact, opioids were involved in 70,000 plus deaths in 2018, and opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2018 than 1999. Hamilton has been affected in a big way. In 2016 alone Mercer County lost 69 individuals to this crisis. It is getting worse instead of better.

It is no longer a drug of the misfortunate. It has affected our sisters, our brothers, our mothers, our fathers, and our good friends. I feel assured that you are **touched** by some family or friend you know that has been treated or died as a result of opioids or other drugs. The City of Angels programs, including training over 500 volunteers as Recovery Coaches, many who are NARCAN Certified. NARCAN is an integral part of saving lives of overdose victims.

Kevin and I are asking for your help in our continued fight to eradicate this disease. This year's **Walk with the Angels** is sure to attract thousands. Will you be a part of this worthwhile program and included in our published list of contributors? Hamilton and Mercer County need your help. A community is only as strong as its residents and businesses.

Please fill out the attached form and send your contribution today. Thank you for your support and God Bless!

Sincerely yours,

John Bencivengo, COO of COA
Former Mayor of Hamilton Twp.

WALK WITH THE ANGELS

Saturday September 14th 2019

Mercer County Park

Kevin Meara, CEO, Founder
Former Councilman and Mayor of Hamilton Twp.