



August 1, 2018

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 this heroin/opioid epidemic. Many treatment centers that charge thousands to get help. 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 Angels 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 driver of drug overdose deaths, in fact, opioids were involved in 42,249 deaths in 2016, and opioid overdose deaths were five times higher in 2016 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. As a result of the City of Angels programs including training 350 volunteers are trained as Recovery Coaches many who are NARCAN Certified, which has been integral in overdoses and saving 272 lives.

Kevin and I are asking for your help in our continued fight to eradicate this disease. This year's **Walk with the Angels/Rockfest** 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.

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

## **WALK WITH THE ANGELS/ROCKFEST**

Friday thru Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Mercer County Park

Admission FREE