A New Approach

The Strongsville Police Department is taking a leadership role in bringing together community resources to address the addiction crisis.

The Community Opiate-Outreach Program (CO-OP) includes a Quick Response Team that sends officers, paramedics and trained volunteers to the home of an overdose survivor to offer counseling and referral to treatment services, as well as support to the family.

The department also offers Safe Passages, a program where residents who want help for addiction can simply walk into the police station during normal business hours and ask for it. Officers will help get the individual into a treatment program.



Cover photo courtesy RiverBender.com

Many do not understand why or how other people become addicted to drugs.

It is often mistakenly assumed that drug abusers lack moral principles or willpower and that they could stop using drugs simply by choosing to change their behavior.

In reality, drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting takes more than good intentions or a strong will. In fact, because drugs change the brain in ways that foster compulsive drug abuse, quitting is difficult, even for those who are ready to do so.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

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Help and Hope



For Opioid and Heroin Addiction



Strongsville Police Department



Help is Nearby

For those in the grip of opioid or heroin addiction — and the people who care about them — the future can seem bleak.

But there are many resources in Northeast Ohio for those trying to overcome addiction or stay drug free, as well as for family members supporting their loved ones on the road to recovery.

Drug addiction can be frightening and isolating, but don't give up. You are not alone. There is help, and there is hope.

In-Patient and Out-Patient Treatment Centers

These local organizations offer direction for those seeking help for addiction:

GreaterThanHeroin.com — Lists treatment centers in Northeast Ohio, as well as agencies that offer support to recovering addicts and their loved ones.

Relink.org — Lists treatment and counseling facilities, as well as agencies that can help a recovering addict find a job, housing and more.

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County — Has a 24hour crisis hotline (216-623-6888) and referrals for those seeking help for addiction, including St. Vincent Charity Rosary Hall: 216-363-2580 (adults), Salvation Army Harbor Light: 216-781-2121 (adults); Recovery Resources: 216-431-4131 (children/adolescents & adults); New Directions: 216-591-0324 (children/adolescents); Stella Maris: 216-781-0550 (adults); Catholic Charities Matt Talbot Inn: 216-781-0288; Matt Talbot for Women: 216-634-7500 (adults); ORCA House: 216-231-3772 (adults); Community Action Against Addiction (CAAA): 216-881-0765 (adults). Visit adamhscc.org.

McIntyre Center — Offers substance abuse assessments and out-patient treatment plans for adults and adolescents. Mcintyrecenter.com.

United Way 211 — Provides information specialists who will make referrals to agencies that can help. Call 216-436-2000 or visit 211cleveland.org.

Resources for Families

Families and friends can help support a loved one suffering from addiction:

Families Anonymous — A 12-step support group for people with loved ones struggling with drug, alcohol or related behavioral issues. Familiesanonymous.org

Nar-Anon — A 12-step program for family and friends of addicts. There are meetings in the area. Nar-anon.org

Greater Than Heroin — Offers a list of support groups for addicts and their families. GreaterThanHeroin.com

Relink — Provides a list of agencies and groups that help address addiction and recovery. Relink.org

Big Elephant — A local group focused on getting help for those with substance abuse or mental health problems, and also erasing the stigma of talking about the issues. Bigelephant.org

