

Press Release

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### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Dozens Orphaned by The Opioid Epidemic**

The Washington Post published an article last week that discussed the opioid epidemics affect on children. Since 2017, which has “skyrocketed” to 90 people passing from these opioid related overdoses. The article features police officer Ray Lynn who grew up around these substances, watched loved ones die because of them, and is now taking action to alter the lives who are surrounded by these drugs.

Lynn began to realize in the northeastern side of Maryland where he resides, that half of students in the local school’s class had lost a parent within one month. Over 100 children have become orphaned due to the opioid crisis just in this one county. Though, what is more concerning is the unknown number of children worldwide who have become orphaned from this epidemic. And to not only be concerned for the children without a parent, there is even more negative components to being to this statistic. Children aren’t just grieving over their parents, they are also suffering from trauma, as many have witnessed their loved one pass or be in drug-related situations that are traumatizing to them -as they have been surrounded by these substances for far too long. Lynn is worried that due to jobs closing their doors, left many individuals struggling to find work as individuals without having a degree aren’t even considered an interview. As it is a major issue in this county and across the world, Lynn believes it has negatively affected the citizens and is a major access to using these drugs.

Lynn is focused on continuing his belief that trauma-informed-care or counseling for community pain, is what is needed to move towards aiding against this overdose epidemic. He has managed to locate many children who have been affected by their parent’s drug use and has connected them mental health professionals to help them address their trauma. Lynn secured a grant to facilitate this process.

The Washington Post is a major American daily newspaper published in Washington, D.C and has been covering the opioid epidemic from inception. To read the full article please visit [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/with-dozens-of-kids-orphaned-by-the-opioid-crisis-this-md-county-has-a-new-outlook-on-trauma-services/2019/12/10/1399535a-1630-11ea-8406-df3c54b3253e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/with-dozens-of-kids-orphaned-by-the-opioid-crisis-this-md-county-has-a-new-outlook-on-trauma-services/2019/12/10/1399535a-1630-11ea-8406-df3c54b3253e_story.html).

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition

please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](https://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at [www.safeglencove.org](https://www.safeglencove.org).