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Light of Life Launches New Helpline in Response to Opioid Crisis

PITTSBURGH, PA- In 2016, 613 people died from an overdose, according to the Allegheny County Medical Examiner, up from 424 overdoses in 2015. More people than ever are seeking resources for themselves or a loved one. Although there are a variety of options and local organizations dedicated to the cause, it can difficult to know where to start.

“It can be challenging to find the right place to go for help,” said Executive Director Craig Schweiger. “People call or come to our shelter because they are homeless. Or someone will contact us saying they know a single mom facing homelessness and are unsure what they should do. Since we are receiving more calls than we have in the past, we felt it was important to have something focused on the very specific questions many people are asking.”

To address the multiple needs associated with addiction and homelessness, Light of Life created a new helpline to assist anyone who is either in the throes of addiction, is experiencing difficult times or is actively searching for ways to help loved ones or friends.

The *LightLine* number is 1-888-412-0036 and will be staffed Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. A new [webpage](#) on Light of Life’s website is a complement to *LightLine* and includes frequently asked questions and answers, contact information for dozens of community partners and organizations, and direct links to resources.

This effort was announced at Light of Life’s More Than a Meal Gala on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, with more than 400 people in attendance. This year’s gala also featured “Eye of the Needle,” an experiential art installation created by local artists encourage open conversation about addiction and homelessness. To view the video component from Eye of the Needle, visit www.lightoflife.org/eyeoftheneedlepgh.

“What sets *LightLine* apart is that it’s not just about addiction or homelessness, it’s a true life line for community members who are struggling either themselves or dealing with the multitude of difficult circumstances of a loved one,” said Schweiger. “With our roots in the Christian faith, we are available to listen and, if a person is interested, offer prayer and encouragement.”

Background on Light of Life Rescue Mission: Established in 1952, Light of Life Rescue Mission is a Christian nonprofit organization providing life changing recovery programs and food and shelter for Pittsburgh’s poor and homeless. Men, women and children are provided case management and programs designed to meet diverse needs, including recovery from substance addiction, help for mental health issues, and educational courses to prepare them for careers and independent living. The Mission is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. No one is denied services based on race, creed, religion, gender, age or national origin. Light of Life is supported largely by private donations. To learn more, call 412-258-6100 or visit lightoflife.org.

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