

# MEAGAN TAYLOR

## CARLISLE, OH

### **How is the opioid epidemic affecting you, your family, and your neighborhood? :**

It affected me for 8 years. I was an addict. I got sober April 27,2017. But my family got affected by it in a lot of ways. They went through my addiction with me. But it affects all of me every day going around and see how our community is so wrapped up in getting their next fix. Its honestly sad I am trying to better myself for me and my family. I went through treatment when I was pregnant with my little girl Layla. And she is health and beautiful. I would like to share our story so I can give back and help my community.

### **What do you see as causes of the epidemic in your community and in Ohio? :**

Because people have lost the love for Jesus. And if they don't believe in a higher power. The have lost the love for their self and others.

### **What steps might we take as a state to combat the opioid epidemic? :**

As a state we need to come together as a community and allow our Democratic rights to exercise our voices so that we have the proper attention that we need from Ohio's higher-ups such as Mayors, Governors, and Senate; those types of positions to get involved and then we can be provided the proper funding that we need to build rehabilitation centers and habilitation centers so that these individuals have a place to begin their recovery off the streets away from the distractions such as people places and things where it is so easy to return back to their drug using lifestyles we have to create a safe haven for the struggling addicts.

### **What might we do as individuals and a community to reduce opioid abuse?:**

We all need to come together as a community. And set up a special program where individuals who have successfully completed their recovery and have made it to a state of consistent sobriety can come together and talk with these individuals showing them that it is possible giving them the motivation not to give up and then we need to develop a paradigm or a modality a phase transitioning program where these individuals go through intensive therapeutic treatment and slowly progress through a certain period of time into graduation or alumni phase to where they can also give back to struggling addicts in the beginning stages of active addiction.