

This is a disease, not a weakness of character.



The INTO LIGHT Project,

a national non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about drug addiction and erasing stigma, is looking for the personal stories of individuals from the state who have died from a drug overdose/drug poisoning.

Submissions open September 1, 2025.

Dates of Exhibition

July 11, 2026 – November 1, 2026

Opening Reception

July 11, 2026

Location



Brattleboro Museum and Art Center
10 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

For more information contact:

Terri Vano

tvano@intolightproject.org • 828-775-9115



About The INTO LIGHT Project

Theresa Clower was inspired to create The INTO LIGHT Project shortly after the death of her son, Devin Bearden, to an accidental drug overdose in February 2018, in Baltimore.

Having never attempted portraiture work before, she picked up her graphite pencil and began drawing Devin's face. It was a cathartic experience that allowed her to say goodbye to her son.

Theresa tapped into an entirely new calling – drawing portraits of others who lost their lives to drug addiction. INTO LIGHT uses these images along with personal stories to dismantle negative stereotypes about those with the disease of addiction. Exhibits have been held in sixteen states, with more booked through 2026.

Thank you for considering a submission to our project.

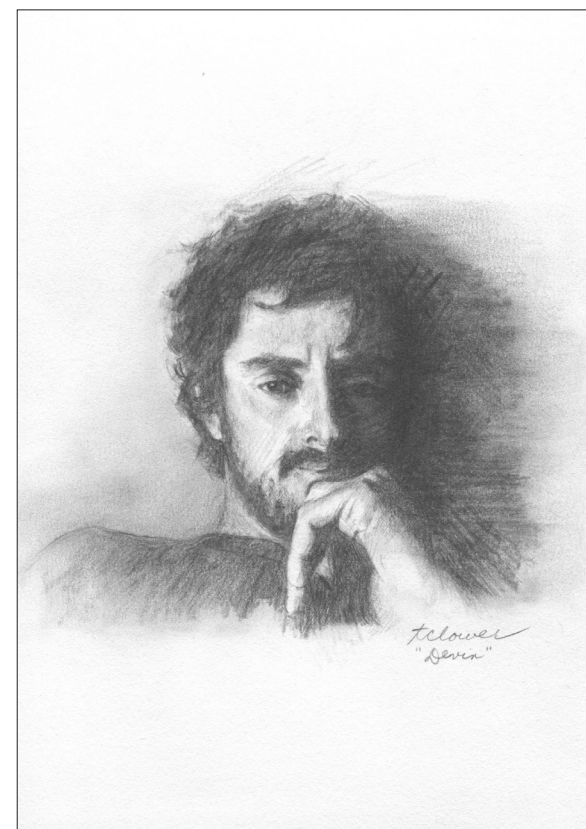
We look forward to working together to change the conversation about drug addiction and erasing the stigma of substance use disorder by helping others to better understand this insidious disease.

Submit your loved one to the
INTO LIGHT Vermont exhibition here



REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION

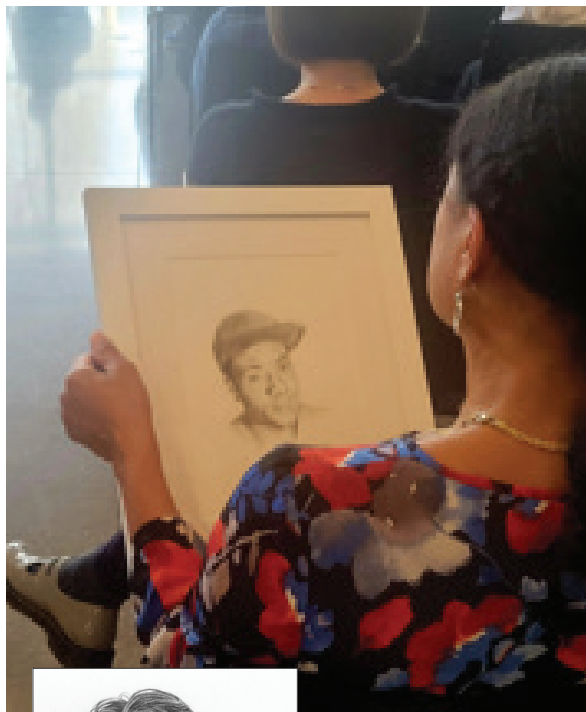
from Vermont Residents



Help us to eradicate the stigma and shame that prevents those with substance use disorders and their families from getting the help they deserve.

Submissions are limited to the first thirty people who complete the application.

Submissions open September 1, 2025.



REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION

from Vermont residents

What is the INTO LIGHT Project?

The INTO LIGHT Project creates exhibitions from original portraits and narratives of thirty individuals from the state of **Vermont** who have died from a drug overdose/poisoning. The goal of the project is to educate the public about drug addiction, and alleviate the stigma surrounding the disease of addiction.

Why it matters

Substance Use Disorder is a disease, not a moral failing. There is treatment for SUD. Those who suffer from it deserve support, as do their families. The portraits and narratives that comprise the exhibition humanize the disease of addiction and bring awareness to the stigma that those who have it experience.

About the Exhibition

The INTO LIGHT Project exhibition – *Drug Addiction: Real People, Real Stories*, is a collection of original graphite portraits and personal stories of those who have passed away from a drug overdose/drug poisoning. Drawn by professional artists, each portrait is framed and accompanied by a narrative depicting their life as told by their loved ones. The original, framed portrait is gifted to the family at the conclusion of the exhibition. The INTO LIGHT Project partners with locations across the United States providing the opportunity for individuals and groups to engage in educational activities that address the drug epidemic. All activities and educational programs are open to the public.

About the Submission Process

Each person who submits their loved one for the project will be asked to send three photos that can be used to produce an original graphite portrait by an INTO LIGHT Project professional artist and to fill out a questionnaire that our narrative writers will use to produce a story about their loved one.

There is no charge for participation in the exhibit, though donations to support the project are always welcome. The thirty spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. INTO LIGHT is deeply aware of the impact that systemic racism has had upon addiction, and on which communities tend to receive support and have their stories told. We are an inclusive organization that embraces people of all backgrounds. We strive to share people's stories equitably, and with humility. We recognize that more work remains to be done to fully represent the scope of the opioid crisis upon communities of color in this country, and we are fully committed to this pursuit.

Vermont residents who are interested in submitting an application on behalf of a loved one lost to drug overdose/poisoning or drug related causes should visit:

intolightproject.org/submit-application-VT for guidelines.

If you would like to support The INTO LIGHT Project, please visit www.intolightproject.org or use this QR code.

