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## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Annual addiction awareness concert

Families who lost a member to drug addiction across Long Island gathered at 89 North Music Venue in Patchogue on March 11 to raise awareness for the disease. It was the Look Up For Adam Foundation's third annual event since the nonprofit was founded after Adam Nuszen overdosed Nov. 3, 2015. Opioid addiction took a record number of lives on Long Island in 2017. Linda Nuszen, Adam's mother and the founder of the nonprofit, said that raising awareness and providing support for families with an affected member can make a difference. She also said how the bereavement group creates a healthy environment for families who have lost a loved one to keep their heads up. "These are the faces, this is who it's happening to," Nuszen said, while scanning the 250-person crowd at the venue. "It is to say our children's names out loud, to give people permission to approach us, not to live in silence, to touch each other, to have compassion, and to show up in an unconditional loving way." The nonprofit hosted a rock concert featuring two local bands, as Adam was a guitar player himself and enjoyed playing and listening to music. Congressman Lee Zeldin (NY-1) was present at the concert held last year and officially named March 12, Adam's birthday, National Look Up Day. Adam would have turned 35 this year. For National Look Up Day, Nuszen asks for everybody to go look up, as Adam often suggested. "Go outside, breathe in the wonder and the majesty and the magic of all that is," Nuszen said. "Something happens when we look up. It lifts us, and it unites us." Pictured is Linda Nuszen and The Beading Hearts as they took the stage to tell their stories about those who passed away from drug addiction, those who are currently struggling through it, and those in recovery.

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