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## Governor Christie On Fighting Addiction: What I Am Doing Today, Is For People Like Pam

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Governor Christie On Fighting Addiction: What I Am Doing Today, Is For Peo...


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### Transcript:

**Governor Christie:** On December 21<sup>st</sup>, we held a candlelight vigil on the steps of this historic building. Over 750 people from all over the state attended to show their solidarity with our efforts, and their concern for their fellow citizens. In the group that night was Pam Garozzo. She's an employee of the state Department of Education. Now, Pam has been a passionate drug awareness and prevention advocate for years. For her, the reasons are personal. Her son, Carlos, has battled addiction since he was 16 years old. During his periods of sobriety, Carlos was amazing. He volunteered his time running support groups for fellow addicts; at the same time, he maintained and thrived at a successful job. He spent time with his family and his friends, and he brought all them together for this cause, and they fought his addiction with him as a family. Pam came to the vigil on December 21<sup>st</sup>, to rejoice in Carlos's latest 10 ½ months of uninterrupted sobriety, and she came there that night to celebrate the gifts that she said that sobriety brought to her son and to their family. Two days later, on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Carlos had relapsed, and he was found in his mother's car—dead at 23 years old from a heroin overdose. Today, Mary Pat and I extend our deepest sympathy to Pam for her enormous loss, and we thank her for her advocacy for and support of other families whose lives have been ravaged by this awful disease. Today, what I am doing today, is for people like Pam.

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