

## NaloxBox

The mission of NaloxBox is to improve the capacity of bystander rescuers to quickly save the lives of victims of opioid overdose by equipping rescuers with a kit of easily accessible tools. **Dr. Geoff Capraro**, a specialist in pediatric emergency medicine who teaches at Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, and **Claudia Rebola**, a professor of industrial design at Rhode Island School of Design, founded the organization in 2017 in response to the growing opioid epidemic in Rhode Island and nationwide.

“Every day an average of 130 people die from an opiate overdose,” Geoff says. “At NaloxBox we aim to increase access to help, reduce stigma, and save lives one box at a time.”

As a health professional responding to a public health crisis, Geoff didn’t consider himself an entrepreneur at first. After launching NaloxBox, he looked for local resources that could improve his business skills. Through his research, he discovered SEG and enrolled in our Health & Wellness Accelerator in fall 2017.

### The SEG Network Effect

Prior to joining the Accelerator, NaloxBox had received two mini-grants of \$5,000 each from the RI Department of Health. Using these grant funds, the startup had been able to assemble and install 58 NaloxBoxes at various locations around the state. By the time the Accelerator started, however, they had used their grants and needed to rebuild their operating budget. Now, three years later, NaloxBox has shipped 825 boxes to 28 states, including Puerto Rico. NaloxBox units

can be found locally at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, Amos House, and numerous shelters, sober living houses, and universities.

Geoff credits SEG for providing NaloxBox with terrific advisors, a student intern, and significant press that reached media far beyond Rhode Island. He also made a significant management decision. “I handed the operations over to **Erin McDonough** at the RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team, and they did amazing work executing the scaling up of NaloxBox,” he says.

NaloxBox is also aiding in job creation. Individuals in recovery and jobs training at Amos House help construct and ship the boxes and are reimbursed per unit constructed. “We’d really love to introduce more training, teaching people how to promptly recognize overdose and properly administer naloxone using the tools in NaloxBox,” Geoff says. “We’d also like to get NaloxBox into more cities where there is a high need.”

Geoff now serves as an SEG advisor, offering support to other social ventures. “SEG is a special place,” he says. “They understand a founder’s passion and are instrumental in helping founders navigate challenges in both their professional and personal lives so they can innovate with impact sustainably. The ecosystem of entrepreneurship at SEG is great.”

*At right, Parris Wise, Practicum Instructor for the Building Trades program at Amos House, supervises assembly of NaloxBox kits.*

