

Our story is not unlike many others. Our son was very athletic and involved in sports and extra-curricular activities. We have always been open in our communications, until it came to his use and abuse of alcohol and narcotics.

His drug use started after the first of many surgeries when his doctor prescribed him pain pills. Throughout his high school years he had other surgeries and sports related injuries where he was also prescribed pain pills. I tried to keep a close eye on the medications and only give them to him when he really needed them. However, I couldn't be with him at all times, and he started to use other illegal substances.

When he joined the Army I thought that would end our worries. Unfortunately, things only became worse. After 8 years of active duty, he was diagnosed with depression, anxiety, PTSD and Myofascial Pain Syndrome. He was being prescribed very high amounts of pain pills by his doctors. Eventually, his doctors took him completely off the medications, and he turned to street drugs. I received a call in March of this year telling me that he was found in his room unresponsive. He had taken an overdose of pills.



When I was asked if I would like to join a coalition in my community focusing on prevention of drug abuse, I immediately said yes. Our story isn't over yet. We have been so fortunate to have had help for our son. He is doing better now, but will struggle with addiction for the rest of his life. I am very dedicated to the prevention of illegal substance use and abuse by our children. We cannot keep losing our loved ones to this horrible disease of addiction.