

# Father Shares Son's Addiction Story

Matt Demczyk | Oct 27, 2017 AT 5:31 am



(KNSI) - On the same day that President Trump declared the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency, a local man was on KNSI to share his son's battle with prescription drug abuse.

Dan Pearson's son Justin died on Christmas Day 2006 at the age of 24.

Dan says Justin was seriously injured in an ATV accident in 2004 and was given Vicodin for the pain.

He says the red flags of addiction appeared quickly and Justin's doctors shut off the pain pills.

Other pain management options were used but none were successful.

Justin started ordering Vicodin off the internet and began to abuse it dramatically.

Justin underwent chemical dependency treatment which helped him fight his addiction for weeks and then months at a time, but days before Christmas in 2006 he relapsed.

On Christmas Day his roommate found him unresponsive.

His cause of death was an accidental mixed drug overdose.

Dan says he started a [website](#) the spring after Justin died to honor his memory and offer resources others can use to get help.

On with KNSI, Dan says he was glad to hear President Trump declare the opioid epidemic a public health emergency.

He hopes that will lead to, among other things, treatment becoming more affordable.

"The reality is a 28 day treatment program costs in the vicinity of \$20,000 to \$25,000 and sometimes upwards of \$30,000."

Dan is asking people to get rid of unwanted, unused medications in one of the many [drop boxes](#) in the area and to keep their eyes open for things that seem suspicious.

"We have to remember that what's going on with these medicine cabinets, it may be the people you invite over to play cards, or the neighbor kid that goes in to use the bathroom and grabs a couple pills, you might not notice it but that's where a lot of it comes from."

Justin worked as an internet sales manager at Pleasureland RV Center, which his dad owns.

Click [here](#) to learn about the Justin Pearson Foundation Fund which helps kids and young adults who are facing or are in recovery from chemical addiction.



**Posted By Matt Demczyk**

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