



WIRED VOLUNTEER: KERRY MANLEY An overview of my story

For me and my family, addiction crept up. By the time I realised the horror of what was happening to Kevin, he was well down the road to ruin.

I denied, refused to believe, and then tried to cover it up. I took in all the lies I was told because I was desperate to believe everything was OK. I didn't want to face reality.

Eventually, it cost me my health, wealth, and sometimes my sanity.

It's difficult to get help and even more difficult to ask for it. You are used to lies, subterfuge and hiding, and really, you don't want to discuss it with others - even those you call friends. You feel they don't understand and are often right.

I also had to deal with discrimination: from casual acquaintances, colleagues, friends, and even family at times. And all the time, my son was dying in front of me. I even questioned the point of living myself.

Somehow though, I clung to the hope that a miracle would happen. AND IT DID!

Recovery is slow, painful, and not without setbacks, both for the addict and the family. You all have to learn to rebuild your lives and it takes a while to trust again. But it's worth it! Kevin believes he has done it with God's help - and I won't argue with that.

When your loved one goes into recovery life changes so much and you have to build a new way of life, with new routines. You may never forget what's happened in the past but 'it is what it is' and you have to move on with life and start enjoying yourself.

It can be done so never, never, give up hope.