

# My Family's Story

**By: Kelly S.**

A close family member suffered from an opioid addiction for most of his adult life. He knew there was a problem and wanted to get help.

However, many folks do not understand what it means to live a daily life struggling with addiction. Even well-meaning family makes poor assumptions.

**The worst assumption of all is that, if the person is still struggling, he or she does not want to get better. This was not true for him as opioid addiction affected his mind as well as his physical body.**

Friends and family members offered to help. However, they lacked the skills and training to effectively guide him through recovery. Despite their offers and efforts to help, he was still battling the addiction. This continued to perpetuate the idea that he simply did not want to get better.

He was finally able to break the addiction with the help of medication-assisted therapy. The medication addresses the physical effects of having opioids in his body for so many years. And it allows him to focus his mental and physical energy on rebuilding his life.