

Actual Parent of a Stonewater Alumnus: My son has been on this journey for a couple of years. His grades had fallen. He was isolating. He didn't come out of his room. He used to love to play basketball, and he quit. He never wanted to do anything, and I didn't know what was normal teenage boy and what was something going on. And when I finally found him one morning and I couldn't wake him up, I knew. And so for two years, we bounced around and we tried to get him help, but nothing took. It never went away. I called a friend who had helped me get in with a good psychologist in Nashville, and she gave me a couple of names, and when I called and talked to Elizabeth, the first time, my heart told me, "God sent you here. This is the place that's going to help your son. This is where you need to be." But I talked to Elizabeth, and she understood when I said, there's more than just drugs. She got it, and she was the first one who understood me and had a good response, in my opinion. She said yes, we treat the whole child. There is more to this than just using drugs. There's something at the root, and we do individualized treatment. We're small. We can get to the relationship level that we need to help this child heal from the ground up. I love that this was a family environment. I think that's key, that these kids feel loved, because there's a lot of shame with this disease, and these kids need to shed that shame to move forward. That day, driving him down, and he was in the car, it was a dark day for me, but in all of that, I had hope, because I knew it was the right place. They saved my son's life. They cared. They took the time to get to know him and to dig in the trenches with him, to help him. They've been there, and they could talk to him in a way that nobody else could, and there's nothing I could ever say that would adequately convey my appreciation to them.