



# THE AUSTIN BOX STORY

**Sharpen Each Other**

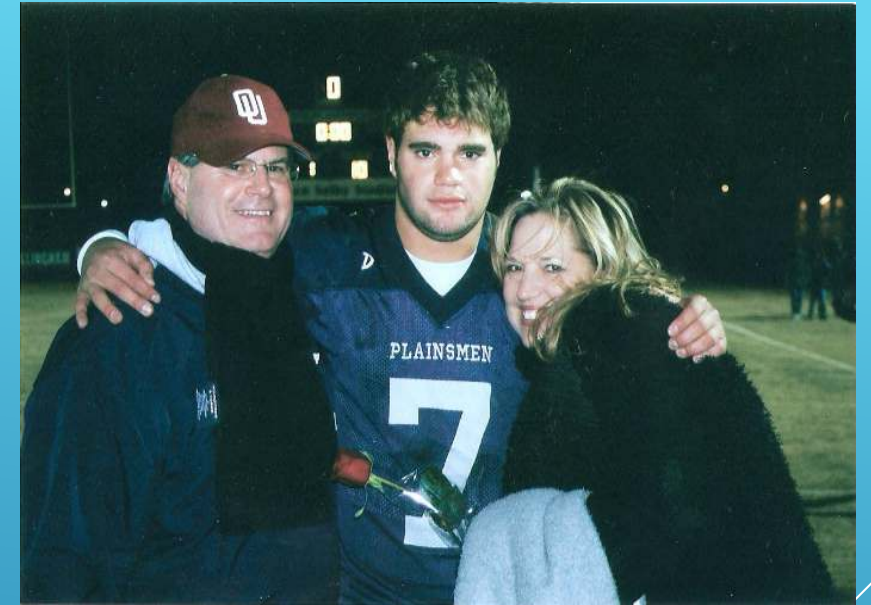
# S

## SHAME (STIGMA)

Austin suffered in silence. Shame is one of the factors that has kept this epidemic hidden. We cannot run from it we must face it.



# H HELP



When addiction creeps into our lives there must be a place to turn. Families like ours must have immediate access.

# A ALL

This a problem facing ALL Oklahomans. Everyone in our state is affected by this. Aside from the toll on human life, this is an epidemic that affects our healthcare and economy. It up to all of us to find a solution!



# R

# Rx

## Don't be an accidental dealer!

In 2016, enough opioids were prescribed in Oklahoma for every adult to have more than 100 pills. Oklahoma had the sixth highest opioid prescribing rate in the nation in 2016. We must continue to address prescribing practices. We must bring the accidental overdose death rate down!



# E EDUCATE

Schools, communities, and individuals must understand the dangers of opioid abuse. Store, use, and dispose of opioids appropriately. Teach people not to be 'Accidental Dealers'. Please spread the information that you have heard here today. This can happen to anyone.



# N NOW

There has been progress made in the past 6 years primarily through the efforts of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Our legislature has also passed important legislation. However, it is not enough! In 2017 (NIDA) reported 388 overdose deaths involving Oklahomans. We lead the nation in non-medical use of prescription pain medications. We must stop this epidemic for future generations. The future is in your hands.



Austin was wearing a wristband with Proverbs 27:17 on it.

## THE CHALLENGE

When we want to change something as big as the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and addiction. It takes all of us. I challenge you to “**Sharpen** Each Other”





## Contact Information

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