



Facing drug abuse head-on

It's going to take more than just a few people working on this. Our entire community needs to pray for the healing of our addicts.

Some time in the fall Editor Sharon Burton and I sat down to talk about the impact of drugs on small rural communities like Adair County. We talked about starting a series where we could interview current addicts, recovered addicts, or even family members whose lives have been affected by drugs. God always seems to have the perfect timing, because just a few weeks later, Dwan Hadley from Journey to Recovery stopped by our office with the same idea that we had already previously discussed. Dwan's weekly faith-based program encourages addicts and recovered addicts to share their stories and to focus on helping one another through the wisdom of Christ. With Dwan's help, we've spent the last couple of months highlighting just a few individuals who have struggled with various drug addictions. We've covered an opioid addiction where a lady found herself struggling to make it through the day without crushing and snorting more than a dozen Lortab pain pills. We've covered an addiction where a mother lost custody of both of her toddler children to crack cocaine and her endless search for the peak of that first time high. And finally this week, we are detailing an Adair native's struggle with methamphetamine and the impact that it has had on her life and her family's life.

All of these stories share similar messages of hope and healing, but more importantly, all of these stories also detail the depths of drug addiction and I think about addicts and I've had to rearrange the way I think about addicts and I've learned so much and I feel like we are just getting started. I think about addicts and I've had to rearrange the way I think about addicts and I've learned so much and I feel like we are just getting started.

Let's stop pretending that this is not our problem Adair County. Addicts have to face their problems in order to get past them, and as a community we must do the same. Lets stop pretending that this is not our problem Adair County. Addicts have to face their problems in order to get past them, and as a community we must do the same.

There are so many things we could be doing to help this problem instead of just labeling it. There are so many things we could be doing to help this problem instead of just labeling it.

God is always on time, as stated earlier, and it is my hope that God will direct Adair County in the right path so that we can begin to heal and help our addicts return to normalcy. We are all flawed and we all have issues, but we must continue to share our flaws and our problems so that we can learn from them.

Thank you for being strong and for explaining all of what you've been through and for sharing all of the scary details that many people do not think of when it comes to the physical aspect of using drugs. Thank you for not allowing society to shame you into silence. Thank you for not wavering, and for not allowing society to shame you into silence.

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turn to a normal life.
Incarcerating addicts is not
the answer, as jail only causes
the addict to return to their
previous life without a clear ex-
ample or direction to follow
once they are no longer incar-
cerated.

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