



Putting positive light into the world

Helping others afford addiction treatment

When Chris Lewis was a teen, he was diagnosed with scoliosis, but he used school sports like football and wrestling — for which he was his high school’s MVP — as his physical therapy. However, as a young adult, his pain became harder to control and he was eventually prescribed opiates for pain relief.

“Unfortunately, Chris became addicted to the pain pills, as we have seen so many young people do in this region,” Chris’ mom Laura noted. “It was devastating to see him struggle like that.” But he went through a 30-day inpatient treatment program at **Geisinger Marworth Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Treatment Center** and, “he came out in good shape,” she said.

Addiction is a difficult disease to treat, with relapse being a particularly challenging aspect to predict, control or avoid — as was the case with Chris. “A new doctor gave him a new, non-narcotic prescription for pain after his treatment at Geisinger Marworth. Chris relapsed and overdosed — and we lost our wonderful son at just 26 years old,” Laura said.

“He was a loving son and grandson with a contagious smile, a supportive sibling to his brother and sister. And he has a daughter named Molly who he’ll never get a chance to see grow up. It’s been a tragic time for us as a family.”

Chris’ death turned Laura into a fierce advocate for addiction and relapse treatment, and she values the time that Chris spent at Geisinger Marworth. Her advocacy has extended to raising funds for others who may not be able to afford the critical care and therapy that the center provides. In 2016, Laura and her family raised more than \$2,300 in Chris’ name to support the **Geisinger Marworth Gift of Hope Scholarship** and other initiatives.

“We still miss Chris every day,” Laura noted. “But we’re putting that grief into action and trying to put a positive light into the world.”

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