



Dear Grieving Family,

We at the G.A.P. Network are so very sorry to hear about your loss. Please know that you have our deepest sympathy and our hearts are truly saddened that your loved one has passed away. As people who have suffered the loss of a family member due to a drug overdose, we wish to send our condolences to you and your family.

We are part of an organization called the G.A.P. Network which stands for Grief to Advocacy through Prevention. Our members are individuals and family groups who provide a voice for the thousands of Ohio individuals and families impacted by substance use, especially the opiate and heroin epidemic. The G.A.P. Network is a program of Prevention Action Alliance which is a statewide nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1987.

This letter is to let you know that you are not alone. Recent official numbers show that 14 Ohioans pass each day, that's 5,110 in Ohio alone who are going to be at risk to lose their lives due to unintentional drug overdose. And yet, despite the statistics, we know that all too often family members feel they are very much alone. The stigma of addiction can add a new layer of emotions such as guilt, judgment, and anger to the already difficult grieving process. Many families feel overwhelmed trying to find answers as to how this happened to their loved one.

We hope that this packet of information can provide you with some valuable resources to help with both grief and a deeper understanding of addiction. And most importantly, we want you to know that we are here to offer emotional support. Our phone number and email are on the enclosed business card and we invite you to reach out to us if you wish to talk. We have walked in your path and know all too well the devastation of losing a family member to the disease of addiction.

With Our Deepest Sympathy,

The G.A.P. Network Advisory Council