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## Letter for Facing Fentanyl

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To: [REDACTED]@voicesforawareness.com

Wed, Jan 22, 2025 at 4:22 PM

From Dave and Cheryl Ellington  
January 22, 2025

Our son, Jonathan, was a vibrant, energetic young man who never met a stranger. A soccer knee injury his junior year of high school resulted in three knee surgeries within 6 months and an addiction to OxyContin. He fought the addiction through the help of family, many friends and Teen Challenge. Upon high school graduation, he attended 2 years at University of Louisville and became an EMT during that time. He decided to move to Colorado for a fresh start in the beautiful mountains. He shared a house in Carbondale with a high school friend. He enjoyed working at Hotel Jerome in Aspen. He stayed "clean" for about a decade. Close to the time of his death, he injured his hand playing softball. A doctor gave him multiple scripts for Oxy which renewed his addiction. When that supply ran out, Jon purchased oxy from an acquaintance. Only it wasn't oxy. It was the poison Fentanyl disguised to look exactly like oxy.

It took his life on December 26, 2017. He was 30. Christmas, the day before he died, he called his mom while on a ski lift at Snowmass. His last statement was, "I'm almost at the top of the mountain. I have to go. Love you." Then he texted a photo from the top of the mountain to his mom and aunt with the comment, "Merry Christmas from above the clouds." The next day, he was gone.

We are thankful for the guilty verdict given April 19, 2021, to the source of that Fentanyl, but it does not bring Jon back.

Cheryl Ellington  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone