



***Amanda Beatrice Rose Gray***

Beloved daughter of  
Michael and Nancy

Beloved sister of Declan

*July 12, 1993 – January 11, 2018*

Amanda died from acute Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) in the form of Fentanyl poisoning; a victim of under-treated mental illness and the synthetic drug scourge. Amanda was not an addict, she did not suffer chemical dependency. Amanda suffered only the need to self-medicate her BPD. This led to a path which ended in Fentanyl, along with ~30,000 Americans in 2018 alone, and nearly 10 on that single day in the small city of Lancaster, PA where she died.

Amanda's need for self-medication arose from the dysfunctional state of mental-healthcare in America. At 17, she was diagnosed with an illness which ultimately claimed her life. Yet, with that diagnosis came no explanation of the seriousness: No pamphlets, no calls from an insurance provider, no visits from healthcare workers. Nothing.

When someone in America is diagnosed with a serious *medical* condition, they are led into a neat and orderly city of well-lighted streets, visible road-signs and people eager to give directions. When one is diagnosed with mental-illness, they are left in a desert without so much as a compass for navigation. Nothing.

Moreover, we have failed the mentally-ill by allowing illicit synthetic opioids to spread throughout the country; displacing dangerous opiate drugs with something far worse. The results were predictable, and depressing.

After years of suffering with a mentally-ill child, we were suddenly immersed in the world of drug abuse, addiction and death. Alas, we realized that Amanda's case was, regrettably, not unique. There are tens of thousands like her – people self-medicating real pain, being laid victim to dealers who prey on those afflicted with a need for opioid drugs.

Add to this population all those who use opioid

drugs occasionally – experimenters, partiers, chronic pain sufferers cut-off of their much-needed prescriptions, those fooled by counterfeit meds – and the result is an historic epidemic.

Amanda was neither a derelict nor a non-productive member of society. She was heroic in controlling her disease such that she was a great friend, and defender of the weak. She was beloved by so many for her heroism; for the noble good works she did.

The Actus Foundation seeks to continue Amanda's great work on behalf of the mentally-ill, the poor souls gripped by addiction and the tens of thousands of non-addicted victims of drug death; this latter population was virtually non-existent before the advent of super-powerful synthetic drugs.

Actus Foundation, Inc. holds a near-term goal of curtailing the tidal-wave of synthetic opioids arriving at our shores, which is an existential threat to our way of life.

We seek solutions for this crisis through policy recommendations at the Federal, State and Local levels, and promotion of various technology solutions to aid Law Enforcement.

Most importantly, we speak openly about what happened to our beloved Amanda. Michael is a popular speaker at professional conferences and schools. These talks are intended to help mitigate, in our small way, the tidal wave of chemical abuse, addiction, and death from synthetic drugs in America.

The expansion of synthetic opioids means that curtailing drug death is, by definition, protection of the mentally-ill. Yet, our longer-term goal is a fundamental change in the view of mental-illness in America.

We seek dialogue, so a disease viewed by so many as a far-removed, moral failure, will find its proper place in our public discourse: Indeed, 1 in 5 Americans will suffer a significant episode of mental-illness this year.

Our culture displays a tragic imbalance of empathy for medical vs. mental illness. It doesn't take a stricken family member to view medical diseases, such as cancer or diabetes, as victimhood. Yet, mental-illness, which arguably includes far less victim responsibility than most medical diseases, is routinely seen as a failure on the part of the victim, **until it touches the family.**

It is our goal to create a public empathy for these most-innocent of victims, so we can accept more of our public attention and resources being dedicated to their short and long-term treatment.

Actus Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. We gladly accept tax-deductible donations, which go 100% to communication in our mission.

**Actus Foundation, Inc.**

The Gray Family

Michael, Nancy, Declan and Amanda (†)

*For donations, and to hear Amanda's story:*

[www.actus.org](http://www.actus.org)

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