



Parker Gill Foundation
Prevention And Recovery is Key

PARKER GILL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

www.parkergillfoundation.org

2020 Year In Review

A Memorable Year

I believe we can all agree that 2020 was a year like no other we have ever experienced. Most people will remember 2020 as the year of COVID-19. For us, the year will always be remembered as the year Parker Gill Foundation began to operate. Despite all of the set backs from COVID-19, I am proud to report that Parker Gill Foundation was able to offer meaningful support to recovery efforts in Arkansas throughout the year.

We couldn't have done the work that we did throughout the year without your support. We want to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your donations and share with you some of the exciting and heartwarming things we were able to do to help break the stigma of addiction and save lives from overdose.

We carry the loss of our Parker with us daily and not a day goes by that we aren't reminded of our mission-to save lives from overdose. We keep that as our focus as we work to support prevention and recovery efforts in our state.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for joining us in the fight to end overdose in Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Paula Cunningham, Executive Director

Recovery Materials

Our very first donation was to the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute. This was particularly meaningful because Parker received treatment here at one point in his illness. These books will be able to help support others who are seeking treatment and recovery. We also made a donation of Life Recovery Bibles to the Grove Life Recovery Ministry at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and to women living in recovery housing in Little Rock.



Kyle Brewer is with Paula Buford Cunningham at UAMS - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

52 mins · Little Rock · 🌐

I want to say thank you to [The Parker Gill Foundation](#) for donating recovery literature to the [UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute!](#)

This generosity has made recovery literature available to individuals that are seeking treatment and recovery. These books are hope-filled and point towards a solution!



Next Step Recovery Housing

It is a priority of Parker Gill Foundation to support recovery housing in Arkansas. Next Step Recovery Housing is a non-profit recovery foundation that houses people in a peer-led recovery environment giving them a safe place to pursue recovery. They attend 12-step meetings, church and receive assistance and peer recovery support. Next Step was founded by Jimmy McGill and his wife Chelsea who are both living in long-term recovery themselves. In 2020, we were able to secure an individual private donation of \$50,000 directly to Next Step which will allow them to purchase the Men's Recovery House in Clarksville Arkansas. Additionally, we donated almost \$2000 to the organization to help support the house and the men living in the house. During Christmas, we filled stockings to present to the men and enjoyed spending some time sharing Parker's story with the men in the house.



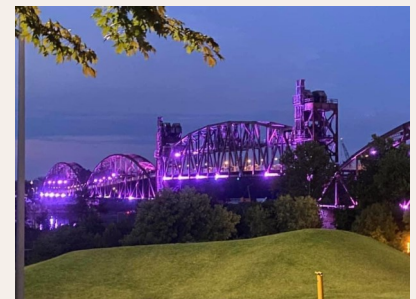
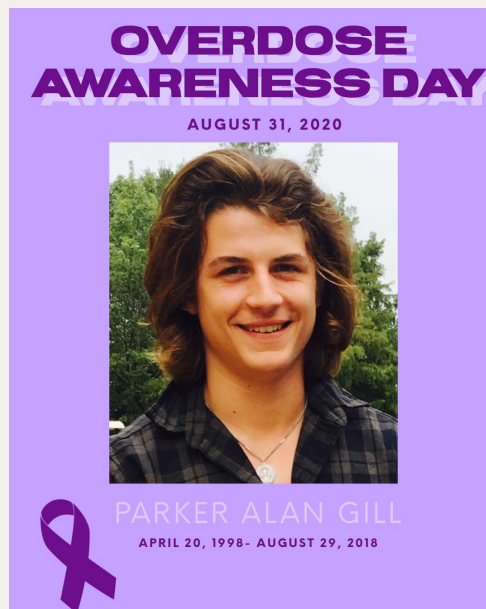
Breaking the Stigma and Raising Awareness

August was a busy month. Parker Gill Foundation supported two major events to bring awareness to the disease of addiction, recovery from addiction and overdose death.

On August 16th, Next Step Recovery Housing hosted **Recovery Awareness Day** at Indian Lakes as a fundraiser for their recovery housing and to break the stigma of addiction. Parker Gill Foundation sponsored a dock and provided food that was sold at the event. We had the pleasure of hearing various recovery speakers including Brandon Novak. I cannot begin to explain what a pleasure it was to be a part of a fun-filled day of laughter and joy with people so thankful to be living a life free from alcohol and drugs.



On August 31st, Parker Gill Foundation joined with Natural State Recovery Centers and Hope Movement to hold the **Arkansas Overdose Awareness Day** event at the Clinton Presidential Center bridge. Individuals who lost someone from an overdose joined together with individuals in recovery to stand united on the bridge, paying tribute to the lives lost and to share the hope of recovery as the bridges of Little Rock were lit purple at sunset. The event was a powerful way to reduce the stigma of overdose-related deaths and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends who have lost someone to an overdose death.

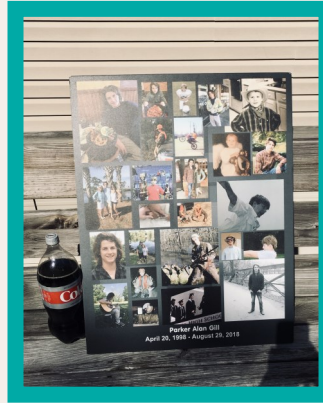


Other Support

Throughout the year we were continually on the lookout for opportunities to give to support to people seeking recovery.

Some of those activities included:

- ◇ Purchasing a freezer for the M18 recovery program. The freezer allowed them to store deer meat and other foods for the men to eat.
- ◇ We provided food for the Christ-centered 12-step recovery group at That.Church
- ◇ On two occasions we were able to share Parker's story and provide and enjoy a meal with women living in the Phoenix House and Freshly Renewed recovery housing.
- ◇ Christmas in Recovery– We provided Christmas gifts for 7 children whose parents are living in recovery housing. These parents were thrilled to be able to have presents to give to their children when they wouldn't have been able to otherwise. We also donated funds to Hope Movement to allow them to provide meals to 4 different recovery centers during the holidays.
- ◇ Bibles were purchased and a donation was made to support Grove Life Recovery Ministry, a new recovery ministry of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in the West Little Rock area.
- ◇ We also purchased several different t-shirts to sell and advertise our foundation & our mission. As you can see we got a picture of someone on the front lines fighting COVID wearing our logo.



Thank you again for your support. We look forward to more exciting news to share in 2021

From the Board of Directors

Parker Gill Foundation

Paula Cunningham • Casey Copeland

Pam Cummins • Lynda Ovaert

Suzanne Waters