



# Stolen Life

By Tyson Wright

**M**Y NAME is Tyson Wright and I am a senior at Ridgefield High school. I am writing to share with you the impact that drug abuse has had on me. Also, my personal experiences and lessons learned from being a child of an addict.

I have spent the last five years of my eighteen year life without my father. What I mean by this is that five years ago my mother had to sit down with me and my sisters with eyes full of tears and tell us that my father was dead at the age of 31. It is hard to describe the feelings I had when I was told. I remember the loud screams and cries that came from my sisters and I. The agonizing, sick feeling in my stomach that wouldn't go away, and the feeling of being alone.

See, several years before this I had seen less and less of my father. He would promise to come pick us up and would never show. It became normal

to not see him and slowly he almost completely stopped calling. My mother kept the real reason for his absence from us. I have not always known or understood why my father wasn't there for me, but now I know why. My dad would also steal from me and I would never get my things back. I remember one time I went to stay with him and I took my Nintendo and a bunch of games with me; after I went to sleep all my things went missing. He didn't just steal my things he also stole a little bit of my childhood. It is hard to understand why someone who is supposed to love you, take care of you, protect you, and help mold you, continues to choose drugs over you.

Drugs have killed my father and any relationship we could have had. I wish that my father would have had the willpower to have been able to quit. I understand from my mom that he was in treatment three separate times.

He tried to get clean, but could never break his addiction. My father was a heroin addict who died in a bathroom with a needle in his arm. This is his legacy, this is how people remember him, and this is who he became. My mom says we need to remember the good times, I just wish we could have had more. I needed him to be there for my sports, schooling, dances, learning to drive, my graduation, and my future family. Drugs have taken this away from me.

Drugs have made me a different person. I always wanted to be like my dad—I loved my dad and thought he was the coolest dad out there. When he was around we used to have so much fun together. He would do a bunch of guy things with me like playing catch, camping, digging holes, and playing video games. However, drugs changed all this. I want to be a different person because of my dad's actions. I want to go to college, get a good job, and I want to have kids one day that I will be there for. My dad missed out on so much life. Not just his, but mine. I want to live life and enjoy it. I understand that addiction is a sickness and that it will consume your life and eventually take it. This lesson I have learned from my dad. I don't want this for myself.

In conclusion, drugs have had an impact in my life in several ways. I have dealt with disappointment, lies, and death at far too early of an age. Drugs have stolen a life, a role model, a comfort, and love from me. Drugs have stolen my dad. My name is Tyson Wright and drugs will no longer take from me. 🙏

## ALERT SCHOLARSHIP

*Tyson Wright is a recent high school graduate from Washington. Alert Magazine congratulates him for winning the Alert Scholarship and we encourage him in the pursuit of his academic goals. We would also like to encourage future seniors to participate in our scholarship program.*