



Introducing #JoshuasJourney

Meet Joshua. Joshua had a heart for helping others. He offered life by giving words of encouragement and grace. He believed that it's about picking people up when their down, it's about shining a light on a path for others.

Joshua knew what others needed because he understood what one needs when there seems to be little hope. You see, my son grew his angel wings in early 2018 due to the disease of addiction which started with a prescription due to an injury at work. Joshua fought the battle for 10 long years. He hated his addiction and desperately sought to overcome it. With family support and encouragement, he committed to long term recovery nine times in a decade long battle. There were seasons of success, but then another injury later, he would fall back once more. He was determined to overcome, determined to help others like a champion, yet everyday he had to face judgement from society, doors closed to him by the employment system because of his disease and his past journey. What people failed to see was his huge heart and his determination; instead they focused on his past.

My name is Tracie and I am Joshua's mother and now his voice. Last year after losing my son through a decade of walking by his side, I found myself lost like any mother would. A friend recommended I get involved in Leadership Lincoln, however being in the midst of my grief and unimaginable loss I wasn't sure this was my time. With a lot of prayer and much consideration I committed and thankfully so. Through this opportunity the Lord showed me Joshua's heart to the core. I was able to honor my sons heart and compassion for others by getting involved with the Hosed House of Hope in helping create the expansion and for it to be named Joshua's Wing through design, finances, and relationships in the community. It is my desire to bring awareness to this epidemic and overcome the stigma - leading the way in offering love, compassion, and grace.

If no one has told you today that they love you, "I LOVE YOU!" that's something we all can show a little more of is love. We can all shine a little light on someone's path. We can all offer a hand up and lead the way.

Together we can make a difference, together we press on. Together we can offer opportunities for real change and real recovery.

Forever Joshua's mom,
Tracie