

Seeking SOLACE

Lorain Countians, like others throughout Ohio and the country, are seeking solace following the devastating impact of substance abuse on their families. Surviving Our Loss and Continuing Everyday (SOLACE) is a group whose mission is to help those who have lost loved ones to drugs, to help addicted make changes to their lives and to prevent future pain in the addict and family members.

The group formed following one mother's loss from her son who took his life while under the influence of alcohol and opiates. Wes Workman, a popular 18-year-old Portsmouth, Ohio, football star never lived to attend prom or graduate. In 2008, he took his life, leaving his family and the community in shock. Wes' mother, Jo Anna, started SOLACE, which has

united families and communities deal with the impact of substance abuse. They're helping each other walk through the grief. And, they're making changes. Since Wes' death, SOLACE has changed legislation to shut down nine pill mills that distributed millions of prescription opiates in a single year.

Now, SOLACE groups are forming around Ohio providing support for families, serving as a catalyst for community change around, in particular, prescription drug abuse.

Lorain County has not been immune from young people, just like Wes, who died as a direct result of prescription drug abuse and other substances. There are no SOLACE groups yet in Lorain County, but Com-



munities that Care of Lorain can help launch local SOLACE groups. Our coalition would coordinate the effort, based on interest from the community. Training and help is available to start the groups.

We're here to help - in whatever way is needed.

For more information, contact Catherine Gabe, coordinator for Communities that Care of Lorain County at 440-282-9920 or cgabe@lorainadas.org