



*Photo by David Poleski*





# Chris and Kelly's HOPE Foundation

## A Community that Cares Cultivates a Garden.

One hundred people die from drug overdoses every day in this country. But if Steve Grant has his way, that number is going to get smaller. Grant made that commitment to saving lives after losing both of his sons – within five years of each other – to addiction. It would be the catalyst for Grant to turn his personal tragedy into hope for other parents of addicted teens.

Though he's a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual by trade, Grant admits he didn't know the first thing about starting or running a foundation. He just knew he wanted to be able to fund programs for young adults struggling with substance abuse. Then a friend referred him to the Community Foundation.

"They listened to what I wanted to accomplish and were so easy to work with," says Grant. "I didn't want to create an endowment, just have money come in and be spent as needed. And the need is there." By securing donations

from friends, family and other organizations, Grant pulled together over \$25,000 to start Chris and Kelly's Hope Foundation, named in honor of his boys.

With the Community Foundation managing the fund, Grant was quickly able to identify projects that had the promise to help more teens and young adults battle addiction. Last August, Grant announced plans to finance the building of Chris and Kelly's Hope Fitness Park.

Located on the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Travelers Rest, the park will serve the boys in residence at White Horse Academy, a 16-bed treatment facility run by the Phoenix Center. Teens at White Horse Academy can be in treatment for up to four months, much longer than a standard 28-day program and much more effective. Getting a workout early in the day at the park will significantly increase their chances of rehabilitation.

Grant continues to pound the pavement, raising awareness about the disease of addiction and the need to fund treatment. This past September, Greenville High Academy was listening and selected the foundation as the recipient of \$93,000 raised during Spirit Week. "Working with the Community Foundation lends credibility to Chris and Kelly's Hope Foundation," Grant asserts, "They are always behind me."

