

# GREENVILLE JOURNAL

**Giving Matters: Chris and Kelly's HOPE Foundation provides connections, resources to combat addiction**

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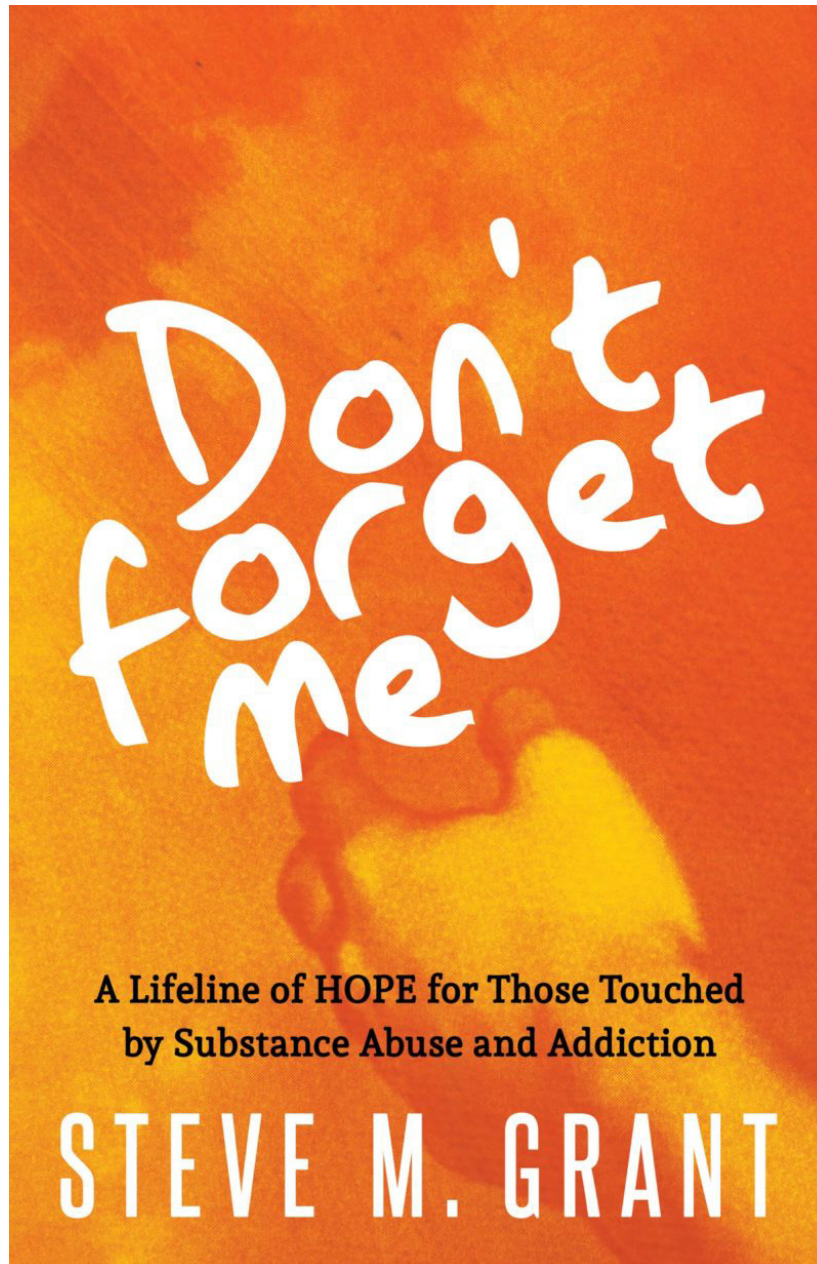


## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION • OF GREENVILLE •

Still grieving the deaths from addiction of his two beloved sons, Steve Grant was in a place he didn't want to be — a sales retreat — when he was faced with a question he didn't expect to hear: What do you want your legacy to be? Although he can't explain how he was able to articulate his aim so clearly in that dark moment, he told the group, "I want my legacy to be that I did everything I could to help adolescents and young adults who struggle with addiction, substance use and mental illness."

Shortly thereafter, he spoke with Bob Morris, president of the [Community Foundation of Greenville](#), to launch [Chris and Kelly's HOPE](#), a foundation that provides resources for young people trying to overcome addiction.

“The range of investments Steve has made includes adolescent brain science research by Duke University and peer support programs at the [Family Effect](#) and FAVOR (Faces and Voices of Recovery),” Morris says. “His personal commitment and impact in the areas of substance abuse and recovery are remarkable.”



Grant's 2020 book, "Don't Forget Me: A Lifeline of HOPE for Those Touched by Substance Abuse and Addiction," shares the story of his sons' struggle with addiction.

In his 2020 book, “[Don’t Forget Me: A Lifeline of HOPE for Those Touched by Substance Abuse and Addiction](#),” written with counselor and addiction specialist James E. Campbell, Grant recalls significant moments in his son’s lives, recounting candidly their struggles and the family’s efforts to overcome them. The book also describes ways the foundation gives hope, even in situations that seem hopeless. These include helping connect people experiencing substance-use disorders and their families with resources, sometimes helping with their expenses and supporting the nonprofits that serve them.

Over the past 10 years, Chris and Kelly’s HOPE has helped over 200 such organizations, and many more individuals. In addition to proceeds from its annual golf tournament, funding comes from individual donations that vary in size, but it all adds up, Grant says.

Grant also wanted the foundation to give hope by spreading the message to everyone affected by addiction that they are not alone. One way he does this is by speaking to small and large groups, locally and across the country. Another is by donating memorial gifts, caring for bereaved families by honoring the lives of their children.

“I’ve always looked at obituaries,” Grant says. “Now, when I see that a young person has died suddenly and the family asks that memorials go to [FAVOR](#) or similar nonprofits, I send a gift in their memory.”

Wilson McKain has benefited both from help connecting to resources and Grant’s personal encouragement. After having his first drink at 14, McKain says he progressed from social use in college to feeling like alcohol was a need. He had good jobs, but never kept them longer than a few years. Drinking finally consumed his life, and he was in and out of the hospital.

He and his mother reached out to Grant, who helped him choose a recovery community in Calabash, North Carolina, and called him regularly to see how he was doing. Chris and Kelly’s HOPE Foundation covered the cost for the first month of treatment.

“Without that, I could not have gone, and I wouldn’t be where I am today,” McKain says. “I met at least 10 other people at the facility he had helped. Without this support, some of them might be dead. This help goes further than many realize, beyond what meets the eye.”

Now McKain is busy with two jobs he enjoys, living in a place whose scenic beauty inspires him.

“My perspective on life has changed,” McKain says. “Now I look forward to seeing my friends. I’m able to be comfortable in my own skin without needing to drink to create a fun time.”

For more information or to donate, visit <https://chriskellyhope.org/>.





## Welcome to Chris & Kelly's HOPE Fitness Park

Open to the public from 12:00 noon to sunset



This special place was created in memory of Chris and Kelly Grant, two fine boys and close brothers, who lost their lives to addiction despite the love and support of their family. Their story is being told through the work and generosity of Chris & Kelly's HOPE Foundation, a philanthropic effort launched in 2011 by their father, Steve Grant. Chris & Kelly's HOPE supports effective programs that help teenagers and young adults beat addiction and live long, healthy lives.

One of the programs supported by Chris & Kelly's HOPE is White Horse Academy, which can be seen just up the hill. White Horse Academy is a residential treatment program for teenage boys ages 13-17.

It is operated by The Phoenix Center, and uses the latest evidence-based science to help boys and their families recover from the devastating effects of addiction.

Each day after 12:00 noon, The Phoenix Center opens this park to the public and you are welcome to use the equipment. Please use this park wisely, with respect for the work being done here and for the young lives being transformed.

We are grateful for the support of Chris & Kelly's HOPE, GHS Children's Hospital, The Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Steve Grant and Family, GHS North Greenville Hospital, Woodward Inc., the Greenville County Recreation District and Mary M. Grant and Family. Their generosity has made this fitness park possible for our boys in treatment, and for you.

If you'd like to learn more about Chris & Kelly's HOPE Foundation, please visit [chriskellyhope.org](http://chriskellyhope.org). For more information on White Horse Academy, please visit [phoenixcenter.org](http://phoenixcenter.org) and [familyeffect.org](http://familyeffect.org).



"I broke down mentally, physically and spiritually," he says.  
"Everyday living was so hard to grasp."