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## Mother wants to help others with support group



Photo contributed by Pamela Logsdon

Brandon Keith Pritchard, with his daughter, Mickenize, died in August from an OxyContin overdose.

By [Sharon McBrayer](#) | The News Herald

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(Part one of two)

MORGANTON — Pamela Logsdon watched her son struggle with addiction to narcotics, including prescription drugs.

Prescription painkillers are legal narcotics, but addicts, such as Brandon Pritchard, buy them on the streets.

Logsdon said he couldn't fight his addiction alone. She said Brandon tried to get professional help, but didn't have health insurance so he was referred to a methadone program, he also was abusing methadone.

Logsdon lost her only son, Brandon Keith Pritchard, 26, to an overdose of OxyContin, a powerful painkiller, in July.

Now she wants to channel her pain from the loss to help others who have lost a loved one to prescription painkillers. Logsdon is planning a support group called P.A. Parents Against Illegal Narcotics.

The name of the support group not only represents the pain of losing a child, but the pain Pritchard was in due to his addiction, Logsdon said.

Her son's life ended after he bought \$40 of prescription painkillers off the street. He died on a friend's sofa.

Pritchard left behind his parents and a 3-year-old daughter, Mickenize.

Logsdon thinks about the life he could have had if he could only have gotten help.

She hopes to start the support-group meetings once a month on Mondays starting in January at her church, Heritage Baptist Church on Parker Road in Morganton.

Right now she is distributing ribbons with the support group's logo and giving the proceeds from donations to the church. Logsdon says the ribbons represent the lives lost to drugs.

The ribbons can be picked up at Hillbilly Grocery on Conley Road in Morganton, at Creekside Finance offices in Morganton and Lenoir, at Foothills Thrift Stores in Hildebran and at Giovanni's Pizza in Valdese.

The price "is just whatever they want to give for them," Logsdon said.

She also has set up a MySpace page for the support group and in memory of her son. It's at [www.myspace.com/pain81\\_2008](http://www.myspace.com/pain81_2008).

Logsdon said she decided to start the support group to help ease her pain and because of all the people she's met since her son died who also have lost loved ones to drugs.


"I'm hoping the pain will be a little less if we can get together and talk about it," Logsdon said. "I feel like the Lord told me to do this."

To find out more about the support group, call Logsdon at 874-3936.

Tomorrow: How prescription pharmaceuticals can kill drug abusers.

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