

CFO/Treasurer of One Pill Kills Keith Brooke Commission and Enrolled Agent, with over 23 years of experience in the tax and accounting profession.

I lost my son, Keith, to suicide at the age of 32 and my whole world as I knew it to be up to that point, changed forever. It was the most heartbreaking, soul crushing and unbelievably surreal experience that felt like nothing I had ever experienced before in my life. In the early months of mind-numbing grief, I noticed a headstone and plot near my son's that looked as if it was almost as recent as his. Her name had been Brooke Treaner, she had passed away only a month prior to Keith, and she had also been just one year younger than him. I instantly empathized with the heartache of her loss at such a young age, and I knew that her family was without a doubt lost in the same sea of shock and grief that our family was. I had brought several clusters of big, yellow sunflowers to adorn my son's gravesite with that day and decided that she would have some sunflowers on her gravesite too. On my next visit to the cemetery, I found a card from Brooke's mother on Keith's headstone with her contact information and an invitation to reach out from one heartbroken mother to another. And so began a fateful friendship of healing and grace between two grieving mothers who leaned on each other as we tried to make sense of the sudden, tragic and senseless loss of each of our children. Ginger shared the story of how Brooke had died because of Fentanyl poisoning, an alarming epidemic that was rapidly becoming one of the leading causes of death for young adults. As it turned out, we had both walked similar paths in our relentless search for resources, help and solutions for our loved ones as they struggled with their own unique battles of finding safe havens, substance abuse, and mental health. We could each relate to the disappointment in the resources on offer that are cited as viable solutions for those in need of help yet aren't more than short-term, temporary starter kits that are too overwhelmed to do much more. The need is great, the gaps are wide, and the resources are too little. There must be more that we can do. Through our shared grief, the determination to bring about change and to spread awareness of to all who need to hear it, the initiative of One Pill Kills Keith Brooke Commission was formed. It is my personal goal to be able to provide those in need of help, whether it is an individual or their family, with information, hope and awareness of local resources to turn to for support as they fight to move forward from the grips of homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health in any shape or form.