



Carl Hennon

Died Age 18

Fentanyl & DXM

My oldest son, Carl, died of an accidental overdose of a combination of an over the counter and a prescription drug. Carl was my beautiful little boy; eyes like large, dark chocolates, an infectious smile, and an insatiable curiosity. Carl was gifted musically and artistically, but he was also gifted by being able to touch the lives of people around him.

I spent years protecting him from harm, but two and a half years ago, harm found a way to sneak in and steal the life of this gifted young man. It was the morning of July 16, 2003. Carl had just graduated from high school and was getting ready to leave for Memphis College of Art in two days. The college had courted him, after he won an award for artwork he created his junior year of high school. The night before, Carl and I had sat in his room and talked about his day at work and the pending trip to Memphis. He smiled and hugged me, "Goodnight Mom. Love you"

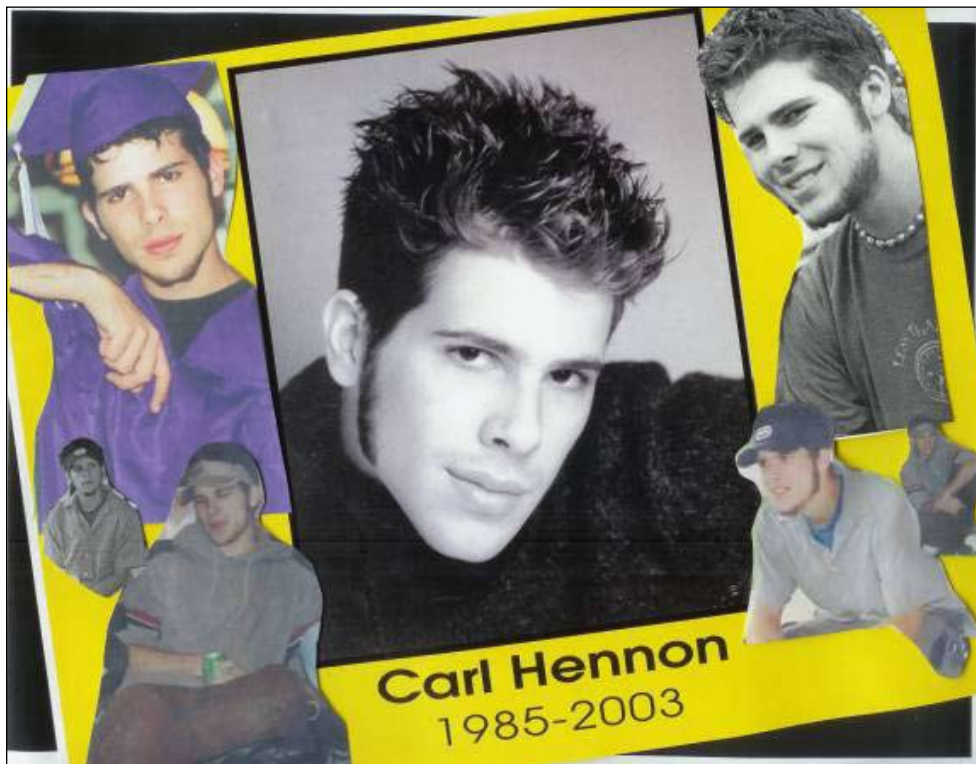
The next morning, my worst nightmare was to occur. I discovered Carl lying peacefully in his bed, motionless with

legs crossed, but he wasn't breathing, and he wasn't responding to my screams.

The next several months after Carl's death I frantically searched for answers. I discovered that Carl had been abusing cough medicine intermittently over the past 2½ years. I wouldn't find out until the morning of Carl's death what he and many others knew about his abuse of cough medicine.

The danger that I so desperately tried to keep out of our house had found a way to sneak in secretly. Carl's autopsy report revealed that he had died from a lethal mix of drugs: Fentanyl, a strong prescription narcotic, and DXM, the active ingredient in cough medicine. I have spent many hours trying to find the reason for this unexplainable tragedy.

If loving my son were enough, Carl would have lived forever. It is now with much love that I pay tribute to this wonderful young man that I was so lucky to have in my life for eighteen years. Carl, I love you.



Remembering Lost Promise