



Discussion Questions for Mallie's Story

RCORP-ETC and Project Hope are producing digital stories that showcase how community members have been affected by opioid use disorder in rural East Tennessee. Digital stories have the power to transform communities, because they help people learn about and understand the experiences of others. To facilitate this, we have created discussion guides to accompany each of our digital stories. Discussing the events and themes of a digital story can improve understanding of the opioid epidemic and its effects, and ultimately reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder.

1. Let's start by recapping the video. How have Mallie and her family been impacted by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which scene from the video stuck with you the most?
3. What events, resources, and opportunities led to Mallie's sobriety? Do you think that her story would be different without this support? If so, how?
4. Imagine for a moment that you were in Mallie's shoes. Would you have done anything differently? What do you think her biggest challenges were and do you think she handled them in the best way possible? What advice would you give Mallie when she was in her darkest days?
5. Approximately two million people currently have opioid use disorder in the United States, and the East Tennessee region has been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you seek to offer support to someone who has been personally affected? What resources might you recommend?
6. Identify potential challenges that may arise when extending support to someone who has been affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you overcome these challenges while maintaining a comfortable and supportive environment?
7. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
8. Are there any lingering questions from the video you are still thinking about?

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