



Tim Ryan, a recovered heroin and cocaine addict, A&E's "Dope Man," and national expert featured in *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, and the *Chicago Tribune* concerning the opioid epidemic, will present "A Man in Recovery, from Dope to Hope" to parents and the community on Wednesday, October 18 at the Watseka Community High School gymnasium. There will be informational booths starting at 5:30 p.m., with Tim speaking at 6:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for our community to hear about today's drug culture and to learn tools to protect our children. The evening program is not recommended for children, but there will be childcare available. In addition to the evening community presentation, Tim will be sharing with Iroquois County students during the day. All Iroquois County public middle and high schools have been invited to attend his presentation.

"The thought of 'it's not happening in my community' is complete crap," Tim Ryan passionately proclaims. "The opiate pandemic is everywhere and it's affecting everyone. People need to see that this is happening in our own backyards, and we need to talk about it!"

"Addiction is pain – not just for the addict but for all those who love him, befriend him and work with him," Ryan states in a press release. "My own battle with heroin and other drugs caused untold suffering for myself and my family. As a result, I have committed my life to helping others get clean and stay clean."

Naperville native Tim Ryan has experienced the worst sides of the opioid epidemic. Tim's moving motivational speech chronicles his harrowing experience as a troubled addict who did drugs with his own son and his son's friends, his incarceration, his son's tragic heroin overdose death, his life today that includes his own journey in recovery, and his work in serving others. Tim Ryan doesn't just tell you his story and leave. He gives HOPE. He knows it's a tough everyday battle. He will not only educate you, but he will also help you get help if you need it.

Reaching beyond his own devastation and heartbreak, Tim used his son's death as the inspiration to spread hope, believing that if even one addict or family could be spared the horror of addiction, he would make a difference. As a result, he founded A Man in Recovery Foundation, a nonprofit

that helps anyone find treatment and recovery. As Tim so convincingly says, “We’re taking one addict at a time from DOPE to HOPE!”

Along with giving hope, Tim will also provide valuable information about opiates, about the surprising effects of heroin on the brain and body, and how to recognize and handle those who struggle with addiction to opiates and other substances. For more information on Tim’s foundation, A Man in Recovery, visit his website at [amirf.org](http://amirf.org).

Do not miss this! The Watseka Community High School is located at 138 South Belmont Avenue in Watseka. This event is free and sponsored by the Iroquois Coalition for Change and is not a Unit 9 sponsored event.