

# The BOYK BULLETIN

## Holding Drug Companies Accountable For Their Role In The Opioid Epidemic & Erasing The Stigma Of Addiction: The Story Of Jimmy Koechley, 1985-2016



Jimmy Koechley

No one could have ever imagined that when Jimmy Koechley traveled to Bermuda for work in 2008 it would change the course of his life forever.

An auto accident on the island left him hospitalized with a mangled foot, on a morphine drip for more than 30 days.

When he was finally able to travel home to the United States, the prescriptions for the pain medication kept coming for years after. Despite his best efforts, multiple rehab stays, and eventually opting to have his foot amputated years after the accident simply so he could rid himself of pain, Jimmy succumbed to his addiction on September 15, 2016.

Everyone who knew Jimmy knew that the most important thing to him was his family and friends. An excerpt from his obituary illustrates what an amazing and compassionate man he was, in spite of the internal battles he fought:

*Adored by all who knew him, he was able to make everybody laugh at any situation. Jimmy had the biggest heart and was willing to do anything or give anything to anybody who was in need. He was always thoughtful and loving. If Jimmy teased or played a trick on you, that was a compliment and you meant a great deal to him. Jimmy loved to play sports from an early age and was*

*looking forward to getting back to playing softball, the golf course, and chasing his nephews again. Jimmy also enjoyed riding his motorcycle alongside his Dad.*

It is very apparent that the opioid addiction crisis has become a national public health emergency impacting nearly every community across all 50 states. It is estimated that the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse in the U.S. is more than \$78 billion per year and since 2000, more than 300,000 Americans have lost their lives to an opioid overdose. But what is terrifying is that the drug companies knew that opioids were highly addictive and that their effectiveness diminishes over time, requiring increases in doses to achieve pain relief, increasing the risk of addiction. Despite knowledge of the significant risk of addiction, drug companies sought to aggressively expand the opioid market by overstating the benefits and downplaying the risks of the use of their opioids by:

- **Encouraging the use of opioids for longer periods of time and to treat a wider range of problems such as common aches and pains.**
- **Misrepresenting the truth about how opioids lead to addiction.**
- **Misrepresenting that addiction can be easily managed.**
- **Misleading the medical community that increased doses pose no significant health risk**

Drug companies accomplished the false perception through highly sophisticated and deceptive marketing campaigns and some drug

companies went so far as to engage in conspiracy and to pay bribes to doctors to prescribe their opioids. They disregarded the health and safety of the public by flooding the market with opioids for profit. They committed frauds on the government and insurers. Under federal law, opioid distributors have a legal obligation to stop controlled substances from misuse or illicit use, yet it was perfectly clear to distributors that opioids were flooding the market.

For instance, in the last 10 years, more than 20 million prescription opioids have been shipped to Williamson, West Virginia – a rural town of only 3,000 people. Another town with population of 392 people, received 9 million hydrocodone pills in a two-year period. In 2007, Purdue Pharma paid more than \$630 million in federal fines and its top three executives were criminally convicted for their misleading marketing. The combined revenues of the responsible opioid manufacturers and distributors is more than \$1.6 trillion per year.

Drug companies and distributors put profit ahead of patient safety and public interests which is why Boyk Law is fighting for families like the Koechleys – to hold these companies responsible and to give a voice to the loved ones who have lost their battles with an addiction that was nearly impossible to beat in the first place.

**If your loved one suffered a fatal overdose after fighting an addiction to prescription opioids, Boyk Law may be able to help you. Please tell us your story by calling 888-888-2110 to confidentially speak with an attorney.**

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# What About The Babies? Fighting To Give Hope To Newborns Battling Addiction At Birth



The opioid crisis has affected people from all walks of life and of all ages. But the most innocent victims are the babies who are born to mothers addicted to or treated with opioids while pregnant who develop neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), or opioid withdrawal. Their lives begin in rehab, as they battle an addiction that can cause:

- **Congenital defects**
- **Low birth weight**
- **Respiratory complications**
- **Tremors**
- **Sleep problems and severe irritability**
- **Rapid breathing, sweating or convulsions**
- **High-pitched crying**
- **Digestive problems**

On average, a baby is born every 15 minutes in the U.S. withdrawing from opioids, and the Centers for Disease Control estimated that nearly six out of every 1,000 infants born in the United States are diagnosed with NAS, although experts believe that the rate is probably a lot higher since not all states regularly collect such data.

As Boyk Law continues to investigate claims against the drug manufacturers and distributors for the part they played in causing opioid addictions, we are continuing our mission to help children by putting a special focus on the babies in northwest Ohio who were born into an addiction they have no control over. If you are caring for a baby who has suffered NAS as a result of prescription opioid use, please call the attorneys in our office at 888-888-2110 to find out how we can help the child.

*Lucas County Childrens Services is always in desperate need of foster families to help give homes to kids in need and training can be done in as little as a few weekends. For more info on how you can foster call 419-213-3200 or visit [www.LucasKids.net](http://www.LucasKids.net).*

# Bikes for Kids Winners Continue to Inspire

The Bikes for Kids program provides one bicycle to a deserving child each week of summer, until August 22nd. Bikes for Kids is asking parents, teachers, caregivers, and loved ones to recognize a child who has made a difference in the life of someone else by nominating them to receive a free bicycle from Wersell's Bike Shop, compliments of Boyk Law. Wersell's will be donating a helmet and a lock to each winner. While there are no specific guidelines on what makes a nominee deserving of a new bike, we encourage nominators to think about any kind things that the child has done for others, or how the child has positively impacted his or her family, friends, community, or classroom.

Started by in 2009, Bikes for Kids has given away over 100 bicycles to area kids as a way to raise awareness about child injury accident prevention. To nominate a child in your life, visit [www.BikesforKidsToledo.com](http://www.BikesforKidsToledo.com). Questions about the Bikes for Kids program can be directed to Anneke by emailing [community@charlesboyk-law.com](mailto:community@charlesboyk-law.com) or by calling 419-720-4456.

## RECIPE: Bob's Roasted Corn & Poblano Dip

*Dip corn chips in it or throw on top of grilled chicken, or even in a burrito with eggs!*

### INGREDIENTS

- 4-5 ears of corn
- 4-5 large poblano peppers
- 6-8 oz. Creme Fraiche
- 6-8 oz. sour cream
- 1/2 fresh squeezed lime juice
- 2 T mince garlic
- 1 bunch of scallions, diced
- 1 T favorite hot sauce (*Sriracha is great!*)
- pink salt/fresh pepper
- corn chips (*Frito's Scoops work best!*)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Blacken corn (parts will still be yellow, just get a nice char on parts of it) on grill. At the same time, roast the poblanos until black on the outside on the grill.
2. Once corn looks good (not completely black!) take it off to cool. Once the poblanos are almost black the whole way around, take off grill and put into a zip lock bag - this will 'steam' the blackened

- 'paper' skin so you can take it off with your hands.
  3. After about 10-15 minutes, take peppers out and start to carefully peel the 'paper' off the outside. It should come off fairly easily - and you don't need to be perfect, just get the majority.
  4. After paper off, split the pepper and take seeds and stem out. Easiest way to take out seeds is spread whole pepper out and use the backside (straight) of a knife and gently scrape them off. Then dice pepper flesh into smaller pieces.
  5. Cut blackened corn kernels off of cobs.
  6. Put peppers, corn, Creme Fraiche, sour cream, lime juice, garlic, salt/pepper, and hot sauce in bowl and mix.
  7. Put mixture into cast iron 8-9" skillet (or roughly 8" pan) and cook until hot and bubbly around outer edge. It's easier to do this on the grill, FYI.
  8. When hot and bubbly, put scallions on top along with more hot sauce to your discretion.
- Fantastic tailgate food! Serve with the chips.*



**Boyk Law's Bikes for Kids program is rolling along for kids who are making a difference! Check out the winners from Weeks 5 through 8:**



**Week #5 – Alexa Green, 10**  
**Nominated by: Kristine Green, Alexa's mother**  
 Kristine's nomination: "It is summer time, and my daughter should be outside playing but she stays insides to take care of me, her mother. I've had MS for 5 years and just need minimal help! Even if she does go outside she makes sure I have ice water and everything I need. Then she comes back frequently to check on me. It's so sweet, she has such a big heart! I appreciate all that she does for me!"



**Week #6 – Desean Howard, 9**  
**Nominated by: Carrie Rendlen, mother**  
 Carrie's nomination: "Desean has Aspergers and has had it rough being just me and him as his father walked out when he was weeks old. Desean has a big heart and wants to help everyone. A couple weeks ago Desean took his allowance and bought food for a homeless man in front of the carry out I am one proud mom his favorite thing is to ride his bike his is unsafe for him to ride right now!"

**Carrie Rendlen and Desean Howard**



**Week #7 – Anthony Curtis, 13**  
**Nominated by: Trisha Bartlett, Anthony's mother**  
 Trisha's nomination: "Anthony has overcome a lot of obstacles throughout life. Just at the beginning of summer he was hospitalized because he

**Anthony Curtis and his mom, Trisha Bartlett**

had a stick go through his foot and out the side. He had a severe infection and still stayed positive! We also had a house fire before Christmas and lost everything and he was more concerned about his autistic brother than losing his own things. Both of my boys truly are amazing giving kids. They even try to earn money for homeless veterans by doing yardwork since my cousin is a 10-year vet."

**Week #8 – Francisco Hernandez Morales, 13**  
**Nominated by: Sue Hess, Special Olympics Coach**

Sue's nomination: "Francisco (Papi) is the oldest child with 2 younger sisters. He is involved in several sport Special Olympics offers throughout the year. One of the current sports he practices 2x per week is cycling. Often after practicing with the team, Dad will take them for a family fun ride. For the past 3 years Dad has rebuilt bikes every year to accommodate for growing. This year, Papi has grown so much Dad doesn't have anything to build for him. He is riding but with a bike quite small for him. Since this is competitive training, he is at a disadvantage with this smaller bike. This family is one that keeps busy. Besides bowling, gymnastics, basketball, track and cycling, Dad gets them involved in roller skating. Papi is very watchful of his youngest sister who is just 6 and her 1st year of riding a 2-wheeler. When she loses balance, Papi will run up to make sure she is ok and help her up. Papi's other sister is involved with Papi in Special Olympics Unified sports. They are all very competitive but encouraging to each other. Francisco loves riding his bike and is learning the rules of group cycling. He has hopes of competing in Cycling at State Summer games but since he doesn't have a bike that fits, he will try competing in track & field this year. He puts his best effort in every sport he participates in."



**Sue Hess (left) and Francisco Morales (right) with his family**

## CASES OF INTEREST: AUGUST 2018

### Worker Falls 20 Feet Off Of Roof After Not Being Provided With A Harness, Needs Surgery To Repair Fractured Hip

Boyk Law is helping our client with her worker's compensation claim after she fell 15-20 feet onto her left side while working as a roofer. She was not provided with a harness and a co-worker drove her to the hospital where it was discovered that she suffered a fracture in her leg as well as a traumatic brain injury. She spent six days in the hospital and surgery was performed to implant rods, a plate, and screws into her hip but there is a chance that over time the femur could deteriorate to the point she may need a total hip replacement.

### Bicycle Accident Leaves Rider With Broken Ankle, Potential Need For Surgery

Our client was riding his bike in a crosswalk with the right of way when he was struck by a vehicle that failed to yield. After his ankle was pulled out from under the car, he was taken by ambulance to the hospital where x-rays and CT scans revealed a fracture. He spent three days in the hospital and orthopedic doctors are still waiting to see if he will need surgery as he still undergoing physical therapy to treat back pain as a result of the accident.

### Doctor Overprescribes Opioid Drugs For 15 Years To Treat Minor Back Strain

Our client continues to fight his addiction to prescription opioid drugs 15 years after first being given the medication. Instead of trying to find an alternative solution like physical therapy for his back strain, our client's doctor continued treat him with an excessive number of highly-addictive opioids. Our office is investigating a claim on his behalf to hold drug companies and the doctor accountable for the addiction and the problems it has caused.



# CHARLES E BOYK

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## August's Raving Fan of the Month

**"I wasn't sure if anyone would help me with my case but they explained things every step of the way. They treated me with respect, as if they had known me personally. I'll be happy that all of the bills from the accident will be paid off. Call Boyk Law Office and they can help you!"**

*– Beth Contreras*

**New address or phone number?**

**Help us stay current by letting us know!**

Call Anneke at **(419) 241-1395**

or e-mail her at

[marketing@charlesboyk-law.com](mailto:marketing@charlesboyk-law.com)

## Bayer to Stop Selling Contraceptive Essure After Threats by FDA, Lawsuits



Pharmaceutical giant Bayer announced it will voluntarily halt all U.S. sales of its birth control device Essure by the end of this year.

This announcement comes after the FDA threatened the company with criminal and civil penalties over its device.

The controversial contraceptive is a small coil that is inserted into the fallopian tubes to promote development of barrier-forming scar tissue.

It is the only product of its kind on the market. The device has been associated with serious risks, which include chronic pain, bleeding, allergic reactions, and organ perforation.

**More than 16,000 lawsuits or claims have been filed against Bayer because of the serious health complications from its use.**

If you or a loved one has suffered because of the Essure birth control implant, we encourage you to contact the attorneys in our office at 419-241-1395 immediately for a free, **confidential** consultation.