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## Jill Kelly discusses personal tragedy and hope in Hattiesburg

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 By Colleen Donovan, Reporter - [email](#)

HATTIESBURG, MS. (WDAM) - Jill Kelly who is the wife of former Buffalo Bills quarterback, Jim Kelly, was in Hattiesburg Thursday talking about her renewed faith in God following her late son's battle with a chronic illness.

The Kelly's lost their only son named Hunter to a rare genetic disease when he was only eight years old. Jill Kelly detailed her family's story in a book called "Without a Word."

During her presentation Thursday to a group of ladies at the Lake Terrace Convention Center, Kelly recounted how she first met her husband, and they later had Hunter on Valentines Day, which is Jim Kelly's birthday.

The Kelly's also have two daughters and started a foundation called "Hunter's Hope Foundation." The purpose of that organization is to raise awareness about the illness Hunter was diagnosed with called Krabbe Disease. Jill Kelly said for parents with chronically ill children, it's important to maintain their faith in God.

"You know my main message is that God is good and that he is faithful and it took the suffering of our one and only son to see that. You know we were living a very different life before Hunter was born and God used this little life to shout volumes to us even though Hunter never spoke a word," said Kelly.

This is Jill Kelly's first time in Hattiesburg, both she and her husband are friends with Brett and Deanna Favre. They are staying with the couple during their visit to the Hub City this week.

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