Wife Of Bills Hall of Famer Tells All In Book


It's been a long road filled with trials and tribulations for the Kellys. Jill Kelly married Bills quarterback and NFL Hall of Famer, Jim Kelly. The couple had three children, two girls and one boy. But their world turned upside down after a deadly diagnosis. Doctors confirmed their son Hunter, born in 1997, had Krabbe Leukodystrophy, a fatal nervous system disease. Hunter died eight years later. But as Jill wrote in her new book "Without a Word," Hunter's life would be the gel that held the family together.

"We started to treat Hunter like he was living rather than dieing and that was when...and I believe...that's when God intervened in our family and led us to start seeking after god for things that we couldn’t control," said Jill.

"Right away everything started happening, but of course you never in your wildest dreams or nightmares think that something is going to be really wrong with your son or your daughter," said Jim.

The book details painful parts of Jim's past, one being his admission to his wife that he cheated on her.

"To be able to tell her, you know, what I've done...it was hard but I knew not only I had to do it but I wanted to do it and that's more important," explained Jim.

But Jim took it a step further, confessing his past to his oldest daughter.

"I told her and she forgave daddy. That to me was very difficult, almost as difficult as telling my wife that I wasn't the husband that she deserved but I'm going to make it up," said Jim.

Today the Kellys cherishing the special memories they had with Hunter.

"The good clearly outweighs the bad," said Jill.
They hope to transform others lives through their own.

"Here we are and we're able to tell our story, "Without a Word" because even though our son never spoke a word he has changed so many lives and the most important lives he's changed are this one and this person right here," said Jim.

The Kelly have a foundation called Hunter's Hope. They've been successful at passing federal laws to increase the amount of medical screenings for newborns. They say early detection and diagnosis of preventable diseases has saved lives across the U.S.