

Statement from the Rhoades family issued by Pauline Rhoades

We are very sorry for what happened to Susan Michelbacher, Stacy Baldwin and Nolan Haddon. We know there is nothing we can say or do to console their families, or understand the pain they have endured all of these years. We also realize how tough it must be for them to be reminded of the crimes whenever Paul's case makes the news, and that they might be angry that Paul is still alive while their loved ones are not.

We want them to know that Paul is not the same man he was in 1987. We want them to know that over the past 24 years, he has returned to being the same caring and unselfish person he was before we lost him to drugs. And we want them to know he has taken responsibility for his actions, and he is doing everything in his power to make up for what he did.

We hoped that Paul would have a clemency hearing so he could show everyone who he is today and how far he has come, and why the state should let him live out his life in prison. Paul has changed the lives of a lot of his fellow inmates, and his family, and others, for the better. Many of them wanted to share those stories.

Despite all the heartbreak that has come from this, as a mother I am proud of the steps my son has been taking to be the best person he can be. I don't want him to die. I don't think it makes sense to kill him now. And I still hope and pray that his life will be spared.