

## **Price Worrell**

A difficult early life and the blessing of being adopted in his late teens have given Price Worrell of Pocatello an uncommon empathy for those who struggle.

When his beloved adoptive father Gordon Lassahn passed away, his mother Pamela Lassahn of Idaho Falls offered Price the opportunity to receive a portion of the inheritance that would have come to him after she passed. What to do with the money was an easy choice – help others.

Price and his mother established the Lassahn-Worrell Fund for Community Support Services at ICF in 2015 to benefit eastern Idaho nonprofits involved with social service, education or advocacy programs. Both are also members of ICF's Legacy Society and will contribute a portion of their estates to their ICF funds when they pass away.

“I feel most connected to causes that are related to advocacy for those who have suffered from mental illness and substance abuse, veterans, the elderly and the poor,” Worrell said.

Worrell, now 43, grew up in an abusive home before being taken in by Gordon and Pamela, whom he met as a fifth-grader when he and their son became best friends. They invited him to live with them when he was 17, but life was still not easy. He was expelled from Idaho Falls High School and got his GED.

As a young man, Price suffered from an undiagnosed mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder, which he tried to manage himself using alcohol – eventually overcoming them after years of struggle and work.

With emotional and financial support from the Lassahns, Price was able find the focus he needed to attend Idaho State University and earn a bachelor's degree.

“Their influences taught me an important lesson: No one gets to where they are alone, and I can choose to be either a beneficial or harmful influence to others,” he said.

He graduated from ISU in 2011 and will complete his master's degree in English in December with an emphasis on Old English wisdom poetry. Today, he is a graduate teaching assistant in ISU's Department of English and Philosophy and will begin working toward his doctorate next year. Worrell, who also established a scholarship fund at ISU with part of his inheritance, credits his parents for helping him be successful.

“You can't help everyone, but if you help the person next to you it spreads,” Worrell said. “The help I have received from others has made me free to pursue what I love.”

Worrell reaches for the words in a favorite old English wisdom poem to communicate his feelings about how overcoming his difficult early years has led him to where he is today in his life and his philanthropy: “Need is a bind in the breast, but it often comes to all. If they listen to his requests, there should be help and healing for every one.”