



"Saving Lives and Reuniting Families"

Jared

"I tell people often: the lesson is in the journey. My road toward recovery was long and worn; and was, for the most part, a very dark path. Freedom House became the light at the end of a very rough journey and I am truly grateful!

The past is prologue and my story began to diverge right as I began college. My childhood was sheltered and suburban and once I got a taste of "the real world", my insane obsessions began. Smoking weed and drinking alcohol subtly lead to a full time love affair with heroin. It was an affair that would last nearly 10 years and bring with it extremes I never could have imagined in my worst nightmares. I was unemployable, homeless, and destitute and lacked any desire or will to continue living; my life seemed at an end. I was resolved to using heroin until it took my life; like it has (and still does) for so many around me.

Three years ago, I woke up. I was given the courage to LIVE and not simply exist. I laid broken on a very rocky bottom that would become a solid foundation for my recovery. A trip to detox lead to a rehab facility where I was directed to Freedom House in March 2015, graduating to their 3/4 house program in September and concluding my full program in March 2016. Those 12 months changed my life and I am grateful for every last day. Had I went home after 30 days of rehab I would have used heroin again. Freedom House gave me the time and security to slowly and safely regain my sanity. The program taught me life skills and tools to become an ACTIVE member of society: How to live on a daily schedule, finding and keeping a job, saving and budgeting money. It also gave me lasting friendships I still lean on daily. Since graduating from Freedom House, I continue to be afforded opportunities to give back to the program that gave me so much.

Freedom House saved my life. I was at death's door as I went up that mountain which lead to the Freedom House facility! When I came back down, I was free to live! We are somebody!"