



## **"Saving Lives and Reuniting Families"**

### **Robert**

Hello my name is Robert and I am an addict.

My story goes back to 2003 but for this evening we will begin at July 31, 2013 – this was my second time on intensive supervision probation. After 28 days in rehab I was then off to a 4 month halfway house. After completing that program, the second day I got out I relapsed on heroin.

After 4 days in jail I was released on probation but then went on the run for 3 weeks. January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I turned myself in and did 28 days in jail.

I then went to a sober living house in Toms River and after 5 months of being sober I relapsed. This time I was hanging out with the wrong kind of people. After failing a drug test I was sent back to jail for 30 days. This time I was wearing a GPS bracelet and a drug patch. I didn't care at this point so even with the GPS unit on I ran and on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I once again found myself in jail.

While in jail I asked to be sent to a halfway house far from Toms River and after 67 days my wish came true. I was sent to Freedom House.

I arrive at Freedom House on October 13, 2014. At first I was still fighting the help I needed. I would see the other guys in the house going out with their sponsors to meetings and doing the steps of recovery. I wanted that too.

When I went to a meeting I was in search of a sponsor and found someone I really look up to. I am so happy he agreed to be my sponsor and help me in recovery.

While at Freedom House I was going back to school to get my GED, attending and participating in meetings, I was starting to like myself and learning so much about myself.

I progressed to the next level by getting a job at Dunkin Donuts, then I progressed to phase two which allowed me weekend passes to my father's house. All this made my self-esteem go way up. I was able to live life on life's terms.

Freedom House gave me the opportunity to believe in myself that I could be somebody.

I graduated from Freedom House on April 9, 2015. This was my new beginning at life. I left Freedom House with my driver's license, a new job, money in the bank and a brand new me.

With the help of Freedom House and the rooms of AA I grew to love myself for who I am. I realized that I am not a bad person, I just made bad choices in my life. But Freedom House made me take a look at that and I made the changes.

Now I live in a recovery house run by Freedom House. I volunteer at the House, I give back what was freely given to me. I bring guys to work, to meetings. I enjoy life today and it is all thanks to Freedom House and the staff.

Thank you for helping me get my life back.