



"Saving Lives and Reuniting Families"

Tim

For many years I struggled with the disease of addiction. I used drugs every day despite the many consequences I suffered as a result. I spent a lot of time in jails and institutions because I had no desire to change my direction.

I never wanted recovery. Others wanted it for me. But I had no desire to change my life. My family had always supported me but they were unsure if I wanted to live or die. In the summer of 2012 I was court ordered to enter Freedom House.

A few years prior, my brother had received a lung transplant. He was born with a pulmonary disorder called Cystic Fibrosis. Unfortunately, his body rejected the donor organs and around the time I entered Freedom House, he was given only a few months to live.

As I progressed through the house something began to change inside of me. I'm not sure when or what exactly happened. I needed something different and suddenly I began to yearn for recovery. After a few months in the house I began to visit my brother on weekends. I spent time with him, which was something I had not done in years.

February 1, 2013 I graduated Freedom House. I was ecstatic at my accomplishment yet terrified of the future. Three weeks later, my brother passed away. It was the most difficult time in my family's life. I didn't want to make things worse by relapsing but I wasn't sure if I would make it through clean and sober.

I was shocked when my father asked me to speak at my brother's wake. For the first time in my life, I was able to be there for my family physically and emotionally. And I got through it by following directions. I did exactly what was suggested to me and I stayed connected with other people in recovery. Many of these tools I learned during my time at Freedom House.

I never cared about anything and I am amazed everyday by the passion I have for recovery and life. In December of 2014 I graduated from William Patterson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, I am working full time and in September I will be entering a graduate program to study Organizational Psychology.

Freedom House gave me the opportunity to put the past behind me and start over. There was a time when my mother had two sons that were dying. She lost one son, but one has found a new life.