



"Saving Lives and Reuniting Families"

Will

My struggle with alcohol and drugs began when I was a teenager and lasted approximately 15 years. When I was a kid growing up, I wanted to be many things, alcohol and drug addict was not on the list. I started experimenting with alcohol and drugs to escape and get out of myself. I had no idea my choices then were setting off a chain reaction that would affect the rest of my life. There came a day when my use crossed an imaginary line into full fledge addiction and I had no idea how I got there. Looking back there were many signs along the way that should have told me I was making the wrong choices in life. I was unwilling to look at the fact that the problems in my life were directly linked to my alcohol and drug addiction. My life spiraled out of control for many years as I was in denial of my addiction.

The darkest depth of my disease came in the summer of 2008, I had lost my job, family, and nearly my life. I was hopeless and helpless. I was on the verge of eviction, no food, running hot water or electricity. My only desire was to drown my pain and sorrow into the next bottle. It was only through the grace of God that I was able to make it through these toughest of times. I was not in denial anymore and looking for a way out from this fatal disease. I was able to admit I was powerless and my life had become unmanageable. Faith in a higher power and that God had a plan for me was enough hope to continue to fight and seek sobriety.

God placed me on the door steps of Freedom House in November of 2008. I was so thankful for a roof over my head, with running water, electric and food in the fridge. Freedom House presented a program of not only recovery, but was also able to teach me the basic living skills that I had lost due to my addiction. I graduated Freedom House in July of 2009, and have continued my journey of recovery. Since graduating, I have accomplished many things including restoration of my driving privilege, became a registered voter, have rebuilt my credit, and was awarded a scholarship through the New Jersey Prevention Network to become a certified alcohol and drug counselor (CADC), just to name a few. I have recently completed the coursework for certification, passed the written test, and just completed my oral exam a couple weeks ago. I continue to work at Freedom House as a Counselor Intern, working with individuals seeking sobriety and basic living skills needed to live an alcohol and drug free life.