

Brett's Story

All I did from the time I was 13 years old was to drink and drug. I made it through high school but by that time I was a full fledged alcoholic. At age 19, I needed wine and whiskey to keep me from shaking and going into convulsions. I stayed that way for 5 years at which time I began to have liver problems. At age 24 I was in a coma for a month and my body was shutting down. I came out of the coma and did physical therapy for a month. I still smoked cocaine for a while and eventually went back to the drinking. I stayed that way until 2002. Hospitals and jails were my way of life.

Three years prior my brother began to clean up his life to become sober. The last month of my drinking and drugging I could not find any relief no matter what I did. I couldn't even pass out. I went to rehab in Xenia. While in rehab a Mr. Lawson from the St. Vincent DePaul Center came to tell us about the opportunities at DePaul Center. I had missed the meeting but the other men were telling me what it was all about. At that time I had no intention of even trying to go to a place like DePaul Center. I did finally talk with Mr. Lawson and decided to give it a try. I first went to the Salvation Army's Booth House for 90 days and then entered the DePaul Center.

While at DePaul Center things began to change. I went to AA meetings and to Bible studies. I took that leap of faith. "God, You either are or You aren't". I had seen peoples' lives change in the rooms but I did not believe it for myself. Gradually the desire for drinking and drugging began to leave me. It did even not sound good. The truth was setting in and setting me free from the desires of my old life. Meeting the staff at the DePaul Center and being in the environment was the place for me to be. I decided to go to school in Tool and Die in the Step II program at Sinclair Community College. This was similar to the trade school I had been in during high school. I got a job at Fifth Third bank and began to build some respectability. I felt blessed here. I no longer battled with drugs and alcohol. I continued my AA meetings. I saw the staff working with people and finding satisfaction in seeing the people with whom they worked do well. They genuinely wanted to see people better themselves. The goodness rubbed off on me.

I was offered a part time job at the St. Vincent de Paul Hotel. The first day I worked there I saw people who were like me and I wanted to leave. I felt that this was not the job for me. It hit me later that day that this was the job for me and it was where I needed to be. Working with people who were like me, helping them to better their lives. I worked that job for three years until I graduated with an Associate's Degree in Tooling and Machining and a certificate in the Step II program at Sinclair Community College in the winter of 2006. During that time I had moved into a house with two other DePaul Center graduates. The great thing about living there is that I believe we have made a difference in the neighborhood. My changed life was touching other people's lives.

Presently, I am working at Behm Quartz. I am a quality inspector. I check the parts after the CNC machining and inspect the finished product.

If it were not for DePaul Center I do not think I would have made it. This place enabled me to really grasp hold of recovery and especially at a time when I really needed it. The DePaul Center allowed me to practice recovery in order for it to become a way of life. Good role models and people to help you move in the right direction. They are people honestly trying to help.