

## **Sid's Story**

To be perfectly frank, my intentions were to come to the St. Vincent DePaul Center and play the system. I had messed up my life with alcohol and drugs, and was out of touch with society. I had spent 30 days in CADAS, 4 months in the Salvation Army, and it was now time to get back into life, and I wasn't ready. My family didn't want me around them, so I didn't have anywhere to go, and after I heard about DePaul Center, I figured that if I got into their program, I would at least have a place to stay. I was coming in with the 3 H's. Helpless, Hopeless and Homeless, so I know it couldn't hurt me any more than what I had already done to myself.

After being in the program for awhile, I started to realize that maybe this program might truly work, so I started applying myself. First I started focusing on what I needed to do, to become once again, a valued member of society. I had to be honest and open-minded to suggestions that were meant for my good. I had to have daily conversations with the counselors that were there to offer me guidance. Interacting with the staff, going to evening meetings, and talking to my fellow associates that had come to DePaul Center like I had, and were now getting their life back together, helped me as well.

If a man needs a place to regroup and get his life back together, the DePaul Center is the place to assist in making it happen. We all had a story to tell, and it was pretty much the same sad, dysfunctional story from each of us, but the staff at the DePaul Center can give you hope. They can guide you toward setting goals for yourself, and teach you how to reach them. All it takes to be successful, is a willingness to try and to do as you are asked. They are a group of powerful and experienced people, but they are also loving and caring.

When I left the DePaul Center, I had been transformed, not just emotionally and mentally, but spiritually as well. I have learned how to put my trust and faith in God. I am now an active member of my Church and God fixed it so that a wonderful woman came back into my life that I knew from school, and we are going to be getting married this fall. He has blessed us with a new home as well. Thanks to the program at the DePaul Center, and a loving and forgiving God. Now my 3 H's mean, Helpful, Hopeful and Home Owner!