

Veronica's Story



Veronica was a high school graduate. Following graduation she took some college courses before deciding to join the military at the age of 19. After 3 years in the military she was discharged without a plan other than to return home to live with her mother. Unfortunately soon after her discharge her mother died leaving her with no place to belong so she re-enlisted. This time Veronica's ongoing drug use was detected through a random drug test. She was given the option of voluntarily leaving the armed services with an honorable discharge or fighting the charge with the strong possibility of severe consequences.

For the next 13 years Veronica held down various jobs of responsibility, always hiding her increasing drug addiction. She was a functioning addict for years until she could no longer hide the effect the drugs had on the choices she made. Unemployment and the ravishing effects of years of addiction brought her to the end of the road: Die or get help!

In January, 2003, Veronica entered the VA Hospital's 28-day treatment program. During this time she made a commitment to God... "If you help me I won't go back". Following the 28-day program she entered the VA After Care Program. She believed God had put her in a place that would help her to get on the road to recovery. Here she met a woman that made a significant difference in her journey. The women simply asked "what do you need?" She did not judge Veronica; she just truly wanted to help. Veronica found the courage and the words to ask for help. This was a major turning point in her life.

During the time Veronica spent in aftercare, she was given a business card of someone that could also be of help. Still somewhat uncomfortable with asking for help, she carried the card around for months until a Devine Inspiration told her to call... "Call the number NOW!" The business card belonged to Gail Gordon, Director of the St. Vincent dePaul Supportive Housing Program. This was March, 2003, and Gail said her timing was excellent. The program had just opened 4 placements for single women. She was accepted to the program in May.

Veronica did not know it for sure, but she was now firmly on the road not only to recovery but to discovery. Step-by-step, the program helped her discover options that would uncover her true potential. The journey had many, many bumps but none that she could not overcome with the help and support of her Case Manager. The step-by-step program helped her define her

goals and put a plan to achieve them into action. Veronica chose to go back to school and while working a full time job she also enrolled at Sinclair Community College.

This was a hopeful but challenging time. New to recovery, a new student adjusting to the demands of school while holding down a full time job, and at the same time working on overcoming issues of trust, honesty and the confidence to ask for help when needed was often overwhelming. The discipline of the program helped Veronica act on the belief that if she wanted something different she had to do things differently. With the help of her Case Manager and all of the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Supportive Housing Program team, Veronica graduated with a 3.58 GPA.

“The St. Vincent de Paul Supportive Housing Program helped me to stay focused on my priorities, the things that would make a positive difference in my life, and to put an action plan to achieve my goals in place. The financial support I received eliminated the worry of paying market rent or fearing the DP&L bill. Thanks to St. Vincent de Paul’s Supportive Housing Program I continue to travel on the road to recovery and discovery.”