



Hi my name is Bobby B. and here is my story.

I would like to tell you a few things about myself I came from what I now know to be a dysfunctional family. There was a lot of physical and emotional abuse up to the age of 15. When I was 15 there was a gun accident that killed my aunt and soon after I started drinking and then drugging. The drinking and drugging continued on and off for the next 27 years; unfortunately it was more on then off. In 1999 I walked into court for my 6th or 7th DUI and Judge Caper ordered me to see a counselor. The counselor was there at the court house and I talked to him that was the beginning of my long road to recovery. Through God's Grace and the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous my life has changed, in 2016 I celebrated 15 years of recovery.

My wife stuck by me during the bad years and we have five beautiful children. Our oldest daughter is 38, married, works part-time, and is very involved with her children's activities. Our second daughter is 29, married, a mom, and a LPN she was recently accepted into a RN program. Our third daughter is 23, a mom, and recently graduated from LPN school. Our oldest son is 21, in the Army reserves, recently graduated from Law Enforcement class, passed the state exam, and is now employed as a police officer in the state of Ohio. Our youngest son is 17, he is in 12th grade, and is a very good student.

I have seen many people die because of their addiction and I have known many turn to criminal activities to support their habit. Once they turn to criminal activities they end up in jail then a vicious cycle begins they are in and out of jail until sooner or later they end up in prison. Even then the cycle is rarely broken and when they are released from prison most will return to their addiction and criminal activities.

When most people decide to get clean and sober they go to an alcohol/drug treatment center. There are some good treatment centers around here and they range from 28 days to 1 year programs. The problem is when they transition from their program to the everyday challenges of life many will get overwhelmed and a lot will relapse at this point. That is where the Advocate House comes into play. We have already been through this and know about the fears of being able to live life on life's terms. We know how they think and feel.

When I opened the Advocate House around four years ago, I studied all the clean and sober houses, programs, structures, and the treatment centers. In fact I looked at them so long I began getting confused. One thing I realized that recovery had gotten very complicated in this area. The fact is recovery is a simple program for complicated people. I came in to recovery straight off the streets and out of the bars. The last ten years I was out there, I was heavy on cocaine and meth, and I always had a beer in my hand. I was one of the sickest persons that ever walked into the rooms of recovery definitely nothing to brag about. I know about addiction and I know what it takes to get recovery. My track record shows that.



Hi my name is Kenneth L and here is my story.

I was born in Pike County, Kentucky. When I was very young my family moved to WV. My life has not been an easy one.

One of my youngest memories is my dad burning down the home my mother and I were staying in because he didn't want us living there. A few years later my mother and I were living under a bridge. We went to my father for help but he had turned us away. My mother was drinking and doing any drugs she could get her hands on then.

When I was 9 years old I was sent into the foster care system by that time I didn't really care about anything. I started getting in trouble so I went to a group home where I stayed until I was 18 years old. After I got out of the group home I had no place to go so I went to my mother's home where I started doing dope. Like her I was doing anything I could get my hands on. I started smoking crack and caught my first felony when I was 23. I was sent to prison. When I got out of prison I didn't have anywhere to go so I started right back with the crack. When I turned 29 I caught my second felony. I was sent back to prison. When it was time for me to make parole I still didn't have anywhere to go so I started calling sober living homes. No one would accept me because I didn't have money.

Finally I got in contact with the Advocate House and Bobby took me in like I was his own son. I had no money and no family but when I got to Advocate House it was full of brothers just like me. I started working the Advocate House program and following their Rules and Regulations. It took a few months but I finally started feeling like part of a team.

I have recently moved out of Advocate House but I rent a different apartment from Bobby and have been 27 months clean and sober. I know in my heart if I hadn't found the Advocate House I would be working on my third felony.

I now have a job as a grill cook, a family that only happens through prayer, and I am going to college. I owe it all to the Advocate House and Bobby. Who would have thought after 15 years of smoking crack I would be going to school to become a Substance Abuse Counselor. I continue to give gratitude to the Advocate House and with them having my back I have become a productive member of society.



Hi my name is Mike B and here is my story.

I grew up in Ravenswood, WV and my dad left when I was 6 years old. I worked for my grandfather in the summers on his farm.

After high school I went to work for Lowes and worked my way up to store manager. Then I went through a bad divorce and to cope, I starting drinking and doing drugs. I ended up leaving my job at Lowes after 15 years of working there. I started doing drugs all the time. After a while I started making and selling drugs. I ended up getting arrested and went to prison for 4 years. I was released on parole.

When I got off of parole it took about 20 days for me to relapse. I got arrested again and was put on probation. I violated my probation and spent 2 more years in prison. When I got out I could not find work so I started doing/selling drugs again but on a much larger scale. Of course, I got arrested again and was put back in jail.

Someone in the jail told me about the Advocate House and Bobby Borders. My mom called Bobby and asked if he would be willing to help me. Bobby said he would so after about 4 months I got out. Bobby picked me up at Home Confinement and all that I had to wear for a shirt was a trash bag. Once again I had lost everything. Bobby took me to Advocate House and I started their program.

I did not know what to expect but I wanted something that I knew Bobby had. The first 3 months were rough, I didn't have a job but Bobby continued to work with me. I kept going living at Advocate House and working their program.

Then Bobby helped me get on a training program and I got a job! I continued to live at Advocate House and attend AA meetings; and just as Bobby said as time went by my highs/lows averaged out.

I still had legal issues but Bobby stood by me and went to court with me twice to speak on my behalf.

The Advocate House and Bobby helped me rebuild my life in so many ways **Mentally**, **Physically**, and **Spiritually**. Today I can truly say that I enjoy my life and being DRUG FREE.

By the way the training program that Bobby got me on assisted me with the purchase of my truck. Life is truly good CLEAN and SOBER today.