

MEET SOMEONE YOU HAVE HELPED

Community Partner: Homeless Resource Network

Homeless services

Jane survived a traumatic childhood with an abusive, drug addicted mother. Starting at 14 years of age, Jane's mother forced her to engage in sexual activity with men in exchange for drug money. To cope with the horror of her life, she began drinking and using drugs leading to a long history of substance abuse and depression.

Over the years she had numerous episodes of homelessness. Jane entered a transitional shelter for chemically dependent homeless women in June 2005 and was referred to Homeless Resource Network for assistance with bus tickets and identification. After several month of treatment she was discharged with nowhere to go. She began sleeping on the streets and reverting back to what she knew; alcohol, crack and prostitution.

The Homeless Resource Network provided a place for Jane to receive mail and store her belongings. On several occasions she came into HRN beaten up by her boyfriend or severally depressed talking about suicide. On those occasions, staff would take the time to listen to her and reinforce that help is available when he is ready to accept it. In 2007, she was ready. HRN referred her to American Work for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Since that day she has had several setbacks- jail time, relapses, abusive relationships, major health issues- but she is a survivor and has come out on top.

Jane has been clean and sober for over a year, and continues her mental health counseling. She is no longer suicidal and has reconnected with her family, has a strong support system, is in permanent housing and has purchased her own vehicle. In December 2010 she came into HRN and told them that she would not be alive if it weren't for the staff that supported her during that time. On those occasions when she was on the streets and suicidal it was the time taken by staff of HRN to sit with her and listen that changed her mind.