

Christopher – May 14, 2014

For those of you of whom I have not had much or recent contact with in some time allow me to reintroduce myself; My name is Christopher xxxxx, to some of you am I was “defendant”, “client”, inmate, suspect, alcoholic, another homeless dope fiend, perhaps another drain on the local economy. All of which were true at this time last year. I own what my addiction allowed me to become. The purpose of this letter is to THANK YOU and to reassure you when your particular job seems not to be worth it as it some days will, what you do definitely DOES change and save lives!

Judge Daniels released me on recognizance last January from Ocean County Jail and in a follow up appearance he granted me the opportunity for Pre Trial Intervention, he gave me a chance. I would like to be able to say that I was able to turn my life around at that point, however that wasn't the case. I was able to care for my sister for the next month until she passed away at 42 years old from alcohol related disease. I cannot thank you enough for allowing me that time sir. After my sisters passing my attempt to “control” my addiction failed miserably at best recollection. I finally had enough and sought help when I had my suicide plan by overdose all played out in my head. I thank God I made the call to my friend Dan Mathis who with the help of his wife Deb, and the United Way of Ocean County I was able to get into rehab at Maryville and successfully completed the program. Upon leaving rehab I was still faced with homelessness and entering the world clean and sober. Again my friend Dan worked on my behalf until he found somewhere safe that I could go as being back in Little Egg Harbor was NOT an option if I wanted to stay committed to my sobriety. He found Alex Gotay and the Samaritan House in Lakewood. I was very scared when we came for my interview as I saw gang tags and syringes while checking out the area on my first day. During my interview process Alex Gotay stopped the interview and told me I would not have to meet with the Father of All Saints Church to determine my admission, he said he saw something in me (I still can't figure out what because at the time I despised the person I had become) and he knew I could be successful. I completed the 90 day program at Samaritan House, during which time I was able to help Alex succeed in his goal to change from a “homeless shelter” to a transitional sober living facility, eventually being asked to join on staff as Assistant Director. I am currently still working with addicts seeking recovery and willing to do whatever it takes to get back to living vs just being alive. I have remained clean and sober since June 9, 2014. I am currently taking courses to continue my calling to help others that are still sick and suffering as a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. I have my own apartment. I am serving with Ocean County Task Force for Re-entry, I have the respect and trust of my family, friends and most importantly, my son is proud of his dad again. I LOVE my life now. I owe of each of you heartfelt thanks for helping me on this journey in some way. I know you all are very busy so I will save the individual stories for another time and allow you time to get back to your respected lives. But please as you read this know one thing, YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

I sincerely thank you and hope to be able to repay you in any way in the future.

Sincerely,
Christopher xxxxx