

◆ A young couple in their late 20s had been homeless for four years on the streets of Los Angeles. Their daily lives involved hanging out in a park with other homeless individuals and getting high. When the woman became pregnant for the third time (with two children already detained by the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS]), reality set in. Neither parent wanted to lose their child to the system, so they made the conscious decision to stop using methamphetamine and requested help from DCFS. Both parents accepted participation in the Family Dependency Drug Court (FDDC) program and were placed separately into residential treatment.

The couple's obstacles included low self-esteem, guilt and shame, and poor parenting skills, which all manifested in a loss of self-respect as human beings. They addressed their serious life issues and worked on their recovery in treatment. Their determination to stop using drugs and to get their child back was apparent. Both completed a six-month residential program in January 2009 and graduated from the program in April 2009. They are now employed and have obtained independent housing in preparation of starting a new chapter in their life with their son. The couple is eternally grateful to all who helped them get back on their feet and to the FDDC program.

◆ John went to treatment directly from prison. After completing the residential program, he transferred to the outpatient modality and resided in a sober living facility, during which time he got a job and was nearing completion of his program. John relapsed and was returned to the residential program with the approval of his parole agent and the understanding that his parole would be violated and he would return to prison if he relapsed again. When he completed residential treatment, John returned to outpatient treatment and sober living as part of a new Parole Services Network (PSN)-funded program. John never relapsed again, resumed working at his former place of employment, and then transferred to a better paying job, where he has remained for the past eight years. He was discharged from parole in 2002.

John recently bought a home in Los Angeles County with his wife. He has kept in contact with his program, where he is an active privilege cardholder and sponsor. John is clean today because of his commitment to recovery and his activity in the 12-step community. He is grateful to the Parole Service Network for giving him the opportunity to turn his life around and become a good neighbor, homeowner, and productive community member.

◆ This story is about a young 25-year-old single Latina mother of two with a six-year history of addiction to methamphetamine who realized things needed to change upon giving birth to her newborn baby. While in the hospital, the baby and the young mother tested positive for methamphetamine.

DCFS Child Protective Services were notified and the children were subsequently removed and detained. During the team decision-making meeting facilitated by DCFS, this young woman was presented with the option of entering the FDDC program. She accepted and entered residential substance abuse treatment. As she entered the program, she began working towards reaching her primary life goals: to live drug-free, reunify with her two children, and be the best mother that she could be.

Her determination kept her moving forward and allowed her to comply with the court's recommendations by working hard on maintaining a positive attitude towards

her recovery process. After completing 180 days of residential treatment and 180 days of outpatient counseling, she graduated from the FDDC program with one year of sobriety. With the continued housing assistance she received, she is now at the point where she has obtained overnight visits with her children. The DCFS is in the process of recommending family reunification.