

DE PAUL

CREATING FREEDOM FROM DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION



Julia's Story

Meet Julia - she was one of the lucky ones. She did not have to wait fifteen years for treatment.

At 19, Julia experienced her first high after she took a prescribed pain medication for an infection. She remembers how "good" and "normal" she felt. Over the next ten years, Julia pursued that high and became addicted to heroin. She lost her family, her home, her education, her dreams and most tragically - Julia lost herself.

At 29, after frequent emergency room visits, several suicide attempts, and toxic relationships with men, Julia was referred to De Paul. It was not easy and her first attempt in residential treatment was unsuccessful. After nearly dying from an overdose, Julia returned to De Paul and, five months later, she successfully completed residential treatment.

Julia now has the life she always dreamed of having. She volunteers in the community as a mentor and is active with our Alumni Association. She has an apartment of her own and recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl - 9 pounds, 14 ounces, 22 inches long. Recovery became possible because Julia found the services and support she needed at De Paul.

Dear Friends of De Paul:

Winter 2011

Fifteen years...Fifteen years is the average length of time it takes for someone to get help. For a person suffering from the consequences of an alcohol and drug problem, those fifteen years can be a lifetime.

Lives are shattered. Homes are broken. Families are torn apart. Separation, joblessness, incarceration, bankruptcy, homelessness, and ostracization - these are the norm. ***Sadly, Oregon has over 300,000 people in need of addiction treatment, but only about 10 percent will receive it.*** Limited affordable resources, denial, and the stigma of addiction will prevent the remaining 90 percent from receiving the help they need.

Oregon currently is 2nd in the nation for problems related to illegal drug use and ranks 47th in the US for funding for treatment. Increases in crime, homelessness, unemployment, costs of health care and insurance (because the uninsured access emergency departments for medical care) are some of the consequences of Oregon's drug crisis. ***This crisis costs our state nearly \$6 Billion dollars each year. We can no longer afford to sit back and allow people to wait for fifteen years before they receive the help they so desperately need.***

This holiday season we ask that you please join us in helping others like Julia to live the lives they are meant to live. With your support, De Paul can provide more than just treatment, we can offer hope and a second chance for people who need it most. Whether it takes fifteen years or fifteen minutes - ***De Paul is here when they are ready.*** After all, everyone deserves that opportunity.

Best wishes,

Sheila L. North, M.A., M.F.T.
Executive Director

