

John

I've been struggling with addiction for quite some time. I worked in the steel fabrication field, and building mining equipment, and whatnot, and I've injured myself quite a few times, and become addicted to opioids. I went to the same doctor for like seven years, and I can't blame the doctor for everything, but he started me out on hydrocodone, 10 milligrams, four a day, and I did that for like six years. He said, "Well, let's try this," and he upped me from four 10 milligrams of hydrocodone to four 30 milligram oxycodone, which I was already addicted to the hydrocodone. So he got in trouble, and lost his license. I went to him one day and he said, "I can't write you any more pain medicine." And two days later I had checked myself into detox. I was so sick, and it was a bad ordeal.

I left there seven days later just as sick, as when I got there. I was miserable, and I'd come home, about another 20 days. I was so sick and I mean it's like having your hand in a vice, nothing is going to help. And I had to go back to the drug, buy it on the street. And I got to the point, like I said, I didn't want to live, man. Every day I was looking at the shotgun.

I wanted to kill myself, and I was getting absolutely afraid of myself. I done got tired of being sick, tired of going through the lifestyle of depriving my family. I've lost everything. I never was a criminal, went out here and robbed people, but I robbed my family. I deprived myself.

I used to have a gun collection that would probably fill this room we're sitting in, and I'm down to one shotgun, and I was going to use that shotgun on myself.

Once I found a treatment program, all that went away. And this is the truth. If I wouldn't have got the answer on the other side of the phone, I wouldn't be sitting here today. And when I called and talked to this lady that works there, her name is Lois, just the conversation over the phone when I first talked to her, she was saying things to me about this program, about the help here, and the respect I was getting. I just gave up hope, man. In this program, like I said, I've been in other programs, but none like this program that actually really wants to help you. And it's given me hope to be the person I would like to be, instead of the person that I have been through my addiction, and I could be a husband, a dad, a provider, a grandpa, which I have a great family.

Before I couldn't do none of that stuff. I couldn't be a dad. I couldn't be a husband. I couldn't be a grandpa. I couldn't put food on the table and pay my bills, just live, man.

Everyday things, your car breaks down, your car is going to stay broke down. It's a whole life change, man. Everything is better. Addiction takes everything from you, and suboxone gives it all back to you.

Next Tuesday, I'll have 91 days sobriety, never have I ever had sobriety like that in my life. I'm just glad to be alive today, and I know suboxone is the reason I'm alive.

Faith has a lot to do with my recovery. It has a lot to do with it, because it's helped me in every aspect. I thank God that I do have relationship with Jesus, and that's a big thing a lot of people don't have enough. I can be a dad, a husband, and grandpa. I can be alive.