

First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to tell you my story of addiction, and how I was able to pull myself out of the darkness. I started off at the early age of 11 years old with alcohol and marijuana, by the time I was 13 years old I graduated to cocaine and meth which lead me down a darker path of drug dealing and use from the ages of 13 years old till about 19 years old I was in and out of jails, on and off probation and drug had contributed to it all. There I decided to go dry, abstain from meth and continued with cocaine and alcohol. By 23 years old I moved to Las Vegas NV, and there was a whirlwind of chaos, with job loss, eviction, the introduction to intravenous drug use that lasted 3 years till family had to intervene. After the intervention I decided to take care of my health and stop all substances all today from the ages of 25 to 29 with a few relapses in-between. It wasn't till I moved to Phoenix, AZ for school that my addiction took off for the next three years. Continues run in with the law, caught and jailed a few times for selling drugs, almost getting sent to prison, and years of being homeless, it wasn't till my last arrested I decided I needed a change of people, places and things. I got myself into treatment, got a foundation of recovery for the first two years, diagnosed with HIV and bipolar disorder while in active addiction I decided that I wanted to work, with the help of RSA Voc Rehab I was able to obtain my Certified Peer Support Training certificate and got into the field of mental health, where I decided to further my education and first I got my associates in general studies, with a focus on Social work, after my associates I took two years of school off and once undergraduate degrees were offered at the community college level I decided to go back and enroll in the behavioral health science program at the college, where I am focusing on getting my bachelor's degree in BHS, the goal is to obtain my independent license eventually.

Currently I am working at Copa Health I non-for-profit agency that provides mental health services to adults and children I am a clinical coordinator; we promote mental health well being and recovery. I supervise a team of case manages and work with a provider and outside agencies, I want to further my education to become a licensed clinical director or with the focus on most executive level leadership are now moving towards all being licensed, my goal is to get my license to move up within my agency for my professional growth and with this scholarship would help immensely.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration with this scholarship and I look forward to hearing from you soon.