

A SUCCESS STORY

Bryan D wants everybody to know that as of November 30, 2011, he is celebrating **534** days of sobriety. Now 34 years old, he is a new man. “Though there were times I had good jobs, between the ages of 15 and 33 I was in and out of jail probably more than a hundred times (never more than 6 months at a time).” When he was 13, Bryan started drinking and was picked-up for the first time. He began dabbling in marijuana and meth at the age of 15. He dropped out of school, because “I got heavy into drugs about that time.”

RON: “At the time you received your plea bargain, what were you facing?”

BRYAN: “My probation had been revoked. I was facing 6 to 8 years [in prison].”

Instead, Bryan was sent to “The Way.” He stayed there for 2 months beyond the required time, so that he could help Brett. Bryan was really enjoying it. He said, “I really get so much out of helping the other guys, and it keeps my eyes opened. It’s okay to talk to others about your problems. I didn’t used to feel that way. When I have a problem [now] I talk it out with others - my sister and other family members.”

While staying at The Way, he had a lot of talks with Brett, “real often.” He also worked part-time in building maintenance while attending Oakland City University at the same time, pursuing a degree in Business Management. (Bryan earned his G.E.D. and graduated with honors while incarcerated in our county.) When the opportunity for full-time employment came up, school was dropped in order to meet the pressing needs of his financial responsibilities. He now rents an apartment for the first time ever – by himself (a nice one).

Bryan pays child support for two boys, aged 9 and 17. Starting out, he was \$3,500 in arrears “when I came to The Way.” Having left The Way in July of 2011 for the good paying job, he has paid it down to owing only \$2,000. For both boys, he pays \$161 every week.

Hired straight in, Bryan is now working 55-60 hours each week, full-time at Waupaca. A recent pay stub showed that he grossed \$1,100 for 57 hours. Each week he pays \$250-300 in Federal and State taxes. And Bryan has higher goals for his future.

He is in the process of adopting a little boy (as joint-custody with the boy’s mother). He has always called Bryan “Daddy,” and Bryan is taking steps to officially become more than just a father-figure to him. In fact, this little boy could be dubbed the “poster-child” of Celebration Station, because life is changing so dramatically for him in wonderful ways, and it shows.

Bryan says, “God has lifted me up and has taken away everything that used to bother me. My life is just totally different than what it used to be.” And – we are sure for his entire family.