



Hi my name is Bobby B. and I am the Director of Operations at Advocate House. Here is my story.

I would like to tell you a few things about myself; I came from what I now know to be a dysfunctional family. There was a lot of physical and emotional abuse up to the age of 15. When I was 15 there was a gun accident that killed my aunt and, soon after, I started drinking and then drugging. The drinking and drugging continued on and off for the next 27 years; unfortunately, it was more on then off. In 1999 I walked into court for my 6th or 7th DUI and Judge Caper ordered me to see a counselor. The counselor was there at the courthouse and I talked to him. That was the beginning of my long road to recovery. Through God's Grace and the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous my life has changed. I have celebrated continuous recovery since June 2001.

My wife stuck by me during the bad years and we have five beautiful children. Our oldest daughter born in 1978 is married, works part-time, and is very involved with her children's activities. Our second daughter born in 1987 is married, a mom, and an LPN she was recently accepted into an RN program. Our third daughter born in 1993 is a mom and an LPN. Our oldest son born in 1995 is in the Army reserves and is employed as a police officer in the state of Ohio. Our youngest son born in 1999 and is attending the Police Academy.

I have seen many people die because of their addiction and I have known many turn to criminal activities to support their habit. Once they turn to criminal activities, they end up in jail. Then a vicious cycle begins. They are in and out of jail until sooner or later they end up in prison. Even then, the cycle is rarely broken, and when they are released from prison, most will return to their addiction and criminal activities.

When most people decide to get clean and sober, they go to an alcohol/drug treatment center. There are some good treatment centers in the Tri-State area and their programs range from 28 days to 1 year. The problem is when they transition from their program to the everyday challenges of life, many will get overwhelmed and a lot will relapse at this point. That is where the Advocate House comes into play. We have already been through this and know about the fears of being able to live life on life's terms. We know how they think and feel.

When I opened the Advocate House in 2012, I studied all the clean and sober houses, programs, structures, and the treatment centers. In fact, I looked at them so long I began getting confused. One thing I realized was that recovery had gotten very complicated in this area. The fact is recovery is a simple program for complicated people. I came into recovery straight off the streets and out of the bars. The last ten years I was out there, I was heavy on cocaine and meth, and I always had a beer in my hand. I was one of the sickest persons that ever walked into the rooms of recovery, definitely nothing to brag about. I know about addiction, and I know what it takes to get recovery. My track record shows that.