

3rd Place

Craig Marglous

Ernie Reynolds Essay Contest

I am a success. I tell that to myself each and every day because it reinforces all that I've accomplished. I went to a recovery center for the first time January 12, 2001. I was in poor shape with a life lacking direction. My spiritual, physical and mental health were terrible. I went to the recovery center with schizoaffective disorder and a chemical addiction. I went and saw many doctors and my family only wanted the best for me. I remember that the recovery center had activities and crafts as well as classes on health. I stayed in Topeka, KS for a while after being discharged from the recovery center. I was still lacking direction. I went to a group home in Topeka. I know now that there wasn't enough there to do for me because of lack of motivation. I switched and moved around in group homes for the next years in Topeka. My family wasn't impressed with my progress. I had no progress at all. I was a walking shell of a human. I went to family functions and was a shadow of my healthy self from so long ago. My parents decided it was time for me to go to Holly, MI to a work therapy program there for people like me. This changed my life to the success I am today. I worked at the program, and I worked hard. I must say that my work ethic was in tip-top form. I was employee of the month twice in the program. Holly and the work therapy program changed my whole being. I was a shell in 2001. I became present at family events and a joy to be around. I shared my success and have helped people. I have numerous activities that I participate in today. I try to do a 5k race every year and I have participated in the CRIM a few years. The CRIM is a running race in Flint, MI. I have pictures in the Cause and Affect Art Gallery in Fenton MI, on display for sale. I am originally from St. Louis MO, and I have come to believe that there isn't anything there for me anymore. It is great to visit my parents and that's about it. I no longer hang out with anyone in St. Louis. I lost contact with the friends that I had in St. Louis. I have a numerous number of friends today and a great support network of caring individuals. I am currently working at a health club and have been there five years going on six. I couldn't hold down a job for a month while in Kansas. I try to advocate for others in my position through the way I live my life. I love my life today and in the past, I was full of negativity. I am a success, and I can prove it today. I don't have to prove it to anyone I just live it in a positive, motivated, exceptional life.