

Jennifer Swokowski

From: Jon Neeb <jneeb@lotusrecoveryhomesinc.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:34 AM
To: Jennifer Swokowski
Subject: External: Lotus Homes C.U.P. Council Meeting

Hi, My name is Jonathan Neeb. I am hoping I have the ability to speak at the meeting on Monday night, but if I don't get the opportunity, I still wanted to send an email explaining how sober living has given me the ability to be a productive member of the community.

I have a lengthy criminal record. I have spent many years of my life in jail and prison. I have spent most of my life using drugs. I was a complete mess. The only reason anybody knew me, was because my name was always in the newspaper for some infraction or another that I had committed. In 2021 I was given the opportunity to work the Manitowoc County Drug Court Program. By entering the program, I was introduced to recovery. It blew my mind the amount of people that I found in recovery that cared about me and wanted me to succeed.

I lived in sober living. Had I not, I would have been in the same environment where I had failed numerous times before. Living in sober living gave me the ability to learn to live sober while having numerous people surrounding me that wanted the same thing. I was also able to learn how to have fun without using drugs. They pushed me to be better and to want better for myself.

When I first got clean, I just knew that I could never get clean in Manitowoc. To many people I knew and places that I knew staying in Manitowoc was setting myself up for failure. Today I know I will never leave Manitowoc. I have fully invested myself into helping the people in the community that I ruined when I was in active addiction.

Since 3/11/21, I have maintained my sobriety. I found employment early at Lakeshore Latching INC here in Manitowoc and worked there for about 1 ½ years. I earned my Recovery Coach Training certificate in November of 2021. I lived in sober living from 3/11/21 – 5/20/22 I transitioned in that time to different levels. While in sober living I worked towards reunification with my son. On 5/20/22 I got my own apartment. Shortly after getting my own apartment, I was able to get full custody and placement of my son. He is 7 years old, somedays he can be a handful, however I am grateful for the strength he has given me to work my program to the fullest. The custody became official early June 2022. In July 2022 I graduated the Drug Court Program. After graduating drug court, I began working in recovery and I haven't looked back. Watching people come in with nothing and working on themselves and watching them become productive members of society is priceless. Also, in that time I started dating a girl named Brianne Harrison. Today her name is Brianne Neeb. We got married on 11-11-23. Through our relationship we have learned to work together on building a family. In January of 2023, we decided to move in together and blend our family. All of this is only possible because of the blessings of recovery and the program I live. Besides working, I also am enrolled part time in college for a business management associate degree. What I do with that is yet to be decided, however it is something I wanted to do not just for myself but for my family.

Every sober living bed that is full equals 1 person that is not out using drugs. They get random drug screens and work recovery programs with Peer Supports, Recovery Coaches and other Recovering addicts. They also do follow up care with CORE Treatment and Manitowoc Human Services. Sober living is not just a place to stay, it is a place where people stay while working on themselves and building a life free of drugs and alcohol.

Jonathan Neeb

Lotus Recovery Homes
Certified Peer Support Specialist

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