

Boulware Mission

As a child, Matt was surrounded by drugs and alcohol. Both of his parents were addicts and freely shared their drugs and alcohol with him from a very early age. At 11-years-old, his mother offered Marijuana to him and a school friend, who reported the incident. Matt was removed from the home at that point. Despite everything, he missed his parents very much, just as any child would. At age 17 he was reunited with them, and they were both still using heavily. Desperate to bond with them, Matt began using drugs with them. His parents treated him more like a buddy than a son and he soon progressed from "smoking a little pot" to heavily using Meth and LSD.

After three years, Matt's mother passed away from a drug overdose. His father was out of the picture by this time and Matt was on his own again. He was referred by the courts and, as part of a rehabilitation program, was given the opportunity to start over at Boulware Mission. Matt initially had a rough start at the Mission, but at some point, became determined to make it work. He recognized a few guys that he had known from the streets who were "really trying to be clean." Being around them helped encourage him. He decided that it was time to grow up and worked hard to do so. He actively participated in all aspects of the Self-Sufficiency program, including drug/alcohol treatment, financial literacy, employment skills, life skills classes, and more. After completing treatment and for the first time in 5 years, Matt got a full-time job, began paying his bills and even established savings. Case Managers described him as a model client because he was so determined to "do things right this time" and because he was a role model to other guys his age.

Matt remained at the Mission for 60 days before moving into his own place. He continues to work hard at recovery and looks forward to reaching the one-year mark in his sobriety. When Matt came to Boulware, he had hit rock bottom and really didn't see a future for himself. Now, he's supporting himself, giving back, and considers himself a productive citizen.