

KEVIN*

Kevin's life started out on a traditional trajectory. He was a scholar athlete in high school, worked a professional job where he wore a suit and tie, got married and had a son. "I was truly a 'normie'!" he jokes.

Then Kevin had a mental breakdown and it all came crashing down.

He discovered methamphetamine, ended up in jail, and, with the exception of one sister, was shunned by his family. He was homeless at times and battled mental illness along with his addiction. "My life was a rollercoaster," he notes.

Around 2011, Kevin finally found a period of stability when he moved in with his sister. He overcame his addiction for a time and stayed on his mental health medication. But when his sister passed away four years later, this solid foundation was yanked away, he felt truly alone, and he relapsed into addiction once again.

After renting rooms, "couch surfing," and intermittent periods of homelessness, a friend encouraged Kevin to call the Orange County Social Services Agency in 2018, resulting in a referral to Action Alliance Services. "It took just one phone call," explains Kevin. "I moved into an Action Alliance home the very next day."

Kevin started working the Narcotics Anonymous program, attending 12-15 meetings a week to start (he's now attending about four times per week). He also has a leadership position within Action Alliance.

Kevin refers to Action Alliance as "the gold standard," citing the structure as a key reason the program works. Sadly, he's well aware that programs without this structure don't work, having recently lost his son to a drug overdose while the son was living in an unstructured sober living home.

"Action Alliance has helped me find my purpose, and helps keep me clean and focused," says Kevin. "Thanks to Action Alliance, I've regained my confidence and self-esteem."

**Name changed to protect resident privacy*