

LESLIE

Leslie grew up in a family of alcoholics – it’s the only lifestyle she ever knew. Drinking since about seven years of age, Leslie also tried a wide range of drugs while her drinking escalated. She managed to earn her GED, but didn’t work due to her addiction. She was homeless at times, or relied on different men to support her for many years.

In and out of jail multiple times and required to participate in court-ordered rehab programs, it wasn’t until 2013 that Leslie achieved sobriety and was introduced to Action Alliance.

Within just 10 months, Leslie became manager of an Action Alliance house, and is currently the longest serving Action Alliance manager at nine years. In 2023, she was recognized for her efforts through OneOC’s “Spirit of Volunteerism” program. She’s also become employable, currently holding a position with a nonprofit organization that provides social services.

“I’ve helped more than 2,000 women who have come through my house pursue sobriety,” notes Leslie. “Being able to welcome someone into a different way of life is so rewarding. I try to go above and beyond the basis – food, clothing and shelter – when I’m working with my residents.”

“During this past decade, I’ve gained self-respect, self-esteem, and dignity,” concludes Leslie. “I’ve become trustworthy. These are all qualities I’ve developed since becoming part of Action Alliance. I’m eternally grateful.”