



## **MARK**

A native of Boston and the middle of five children, Mark's life changed dramatically at the age of 7, when his parents were killed by a drunk driver on Christmas Day. After being separated from his siblings and placed in various living situations, Mark eventually went to an all-boys Catholic boarding school, where he began drinking at age 15.

After graduating from high school, Mark started working at a mortuary – a career he thought he'd pursue long-term. But at age 20 he got caught drinking on the job, and was fired.

Just two years later, Mark had a heart attack, and achieved a period of sobriety. He eventually moved to Palm Springs, where he worked in recovery as both a professional and volunteer. Yet his addiction found him again, until he once again became sober on March 3, 2017.

Mark relocated to Orange County two years ago when he moved to an Action Alliance residence. He continues to work with his AA sponsor in Palm Springs along with attending meetings in Orange County. On disability due to his heart health, he manages an Action Alliance house.

Although separated from his siblings in his youth, Mark was able to reconnect with his two younger siblings when he was 20. He talks to them every day, and also shares in the blessings of sobriety with his younger brother, who is 15 years sober from cocaine.

"I also get a lot of satisfaction out of making the house I manage a special place for my residents, including preparing a special Thanksgiving meal each year," says Mark. "Ultimately, my job is about saving my residents' lives by mentoring them as they pursue their own paths to lifelong sobriety."