



RONNIE

In the beginning, it was all about having a good time. Initially, Ronnie was able to function while partying, drinking alcohol and smoking weed. When he was 21, however, it started becoming a problem.

He had multiple arrests for open containers and being drunk in public. He was in and out of jail. His disease progressed to the point where he couldn't take care of himself.

He did manage to get sober for about a year, but then slipped back into alcohol. "I was a train wreck – my life was out of control," says Ronnie.

After his most recent time in jail, Ronnie was referred to Action Alliance through the Telecare WIT program, a deferred sentencing program for Orange County residents with dual diagnoses (substance abuse addiction along with a mental health diagnosis). "Action Alliance gave me the opportunity to change my life for the better," he explains. He'll mark three years of sobriety in November, 2022.

Ronnie also has a mental health diagnosis, which is being managed with medication. He attends three AA meetings each week, along with participating in a weekly house meeting. He also finds strength in his Christian faith and occasionally volunteers for nonprofit groups such as Mary's Kitchen and Working Wardrobes.

"Thanks to Action Alliance, I'm finally living life the way I always wanted to!" concludes Ronnie.