



September 10, 2003  
Newsletter

## *“I will graduate from Drug Court . . .”*

*by Marie Steinmetz*

My name is Marie and I am 25 years old. I was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois. I have two older brothers and all three of us are adopted. I was raised Catholic and went to a Catholic grade school for eight years. My childhood was really good.

During high school I did pretty well and my sophomore year was when I smoked my first cigarette. I was 16 then. Going into my senior year was when I took my first drink and tried smoking weed. After that, I started going to more parties and did the same thing every time.



After graduation in 1996, I went on to a community college for a while but then I stopped going. At 21, I started to bartend and that eventually led me into doing drugs. While bartending I started to drink more and hang out with the so called "in" crowd! After a few months into bartending, I met people who did drugs and one night I decided to try cocaine and, of course, I liked it.

From that night on I was snorting cocaine all the time even while at work. Only a few months later, I was introduced to crack cocaine and I really enjoyed that so I did it all the time. My life went down hill from that day forward.

During my usage, I met more and more people who did crack so I started hanging out with them a lot. My habit got to the point where I was stealing from my parents, shoplifting, and

breaking into my father's law firm and stealing business checks from there. I have been in and out of jail seven times within a year due to my addiction. I have been to three different treatment centers and none of them ever worked for me.

I am presently in a two year program in Illinois called "Drug Court" program is two years long or sometimes longer. The program helps those addicted to drugs and alcohol and we are put on two years of probation. Once I complete this program I will graduate from "Drug Court" and all my felonies will be cleared. I am thankful to be in the program.

Since inpatient treatment did not work for me, my judge told me about Teen Challenge. I had no other options except prison for ten to twenty years or a year in Teen Challenge! At first, I didn't like what I heard about this program but I knew I had to straighten out my life so I came.



When I came in on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, I was very nervous and really didn't want to be here. After the first week I was better. My relationship with my family has been restored.

I have been delivered from my addiction to drugs and I am so much closer to God than I have ever been in my entire life. I am so blessed to be in this program and to be around such inspiring people.

I thank God every day for letting me be here another day. Each day gets better as they go by and I look forward to more days with God as I continue on to second phase in Brooklyn.

Two scriptures which mean a lot to me are: Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see,"* and Psalm 27:1 *"The Lord is my light and my salvation –whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"*

*The picture above is of our ladies, board members at the top and County Executive, Scott Walker in the middle. Scott was our special guest at Marie's completion ceremony.*