

CELEBRATING

Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Mark's story

As a child, Mark lived at home with his parents and older brother in Simpson County, Mississippi until his parents' divorce. As he got older, he was easily influenced by other family members and before his mother realized what was happening, Mark had developed a substance use addiction. Mark's mom and step-father tried many times over the years to get him the help he needed, but at the time, Mark wasn't ready to give up drugs or the relationships he had developed while using.

When his father passed away, Mark returned to his mother's home, asked for help, and entered a substance use treatment center. When he finished treatment, he lived with his mother and step-father, but being older, they weren't able to provide all of the help he needed. They knew he needed help from somewhere that could support his addiction and mental health problems, but also teach him independent living and employment skills.

Boswell Regional Center, an Intermediate Care Facility, was able to teach him those skills he lacked. As he continued to battle his addiction, Mark had difficulties for the first several months at Boswell. With support from Boswell staff and the recovery community, Mark began to set goals for himself, like getting a job and moving back into the community. His determination helped him achieve those goals. On June 6, 2018, he moved into Boswell's Shared Supported Living program, a service that has allowed Mark to live independently in his own apartment, but with individually tailored support from staff that are on-site if needs arise.



Mark is also employed through the Supported Employment program, and receives guidance from his job coach and employer, both of whom say he is a wonderful employee. When he isn't working, Mark enjoys attending the Day Services Adult program nearby where he's able to catch up with friends. Mark has been sober three and a half years, attends recovery meetings at a local church, and contributes his successes to the support of the recovery community in his town.

Mark's mother and step-father are very proud of his progress and thankful to know that he is safe and well taken care of. Mark's mother stated, "I wish he would have come to Boswell a long time ago. They have done so much for him. He's gotten more now than he's ever had, and I'm so happy for him."



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