

## Angela's Story

My name is Angela. I am 41 years old and the mother of two girls: Samantha 13 and Victoria 11. I have a college education and always held upper management positions. I led a very full life; weekends were for the girls.

I have also been an addict most of my life. I have had times of being clean, but relapses were a regular part of life. My longest clean time was from 1997 to January 2006. But then, in a matter of weeks I lost my job, then my husband. I also lost the will to live. I spent all of 2006 doing nothing but getting high and because of it, I lost my girls. At that point, I did not care about anything or anybody.

I was a depressed addict in a new city. I never wanted to leave my house, and did not know whom to turn to for help. However, my insurance company sent me a Family Continuity Community Support outreach counselor named Lindsay.

Despite how bad things were, Lindsay was not willing to give up, she kept calling and knocking on my door until one day I finally opened it. Lindsay has been helping me for about 9 months now. She has been by my side all the way even when I went into the hospital for detox. She supported me while I went to the outpatient drug program SOAP. Even when my bad luck got worse, like when I lost everything in a house fire, discovered I have breast cancer, had a mastectomy, and now while I am receiving chemotherapy. Lindsay was my rock. She was/is a strength for me, an inspiration to help me stay clean. Before Lindsay walked into my life, I felt my life was going nowhere and nothing mattered to me, not even my family.

However, during the last 9 months I have had access to a psychiatrist, therapist, family doctor, welfare, food stamps and best of all, I am clean and see my girls once a week.

I know Lindsay's time is almost up with me and I will be very sad to lose her. I can honestly say that I would not be clean and happy, and feel like my life means something had it not been for the all her care, support and concern. Lindsay never gave up on me even when I wanted to give up on myself. She has been consistently reliable in a way that no one else in my life has ever been.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, for everything, you have done for me.

Advice for others: When the door is there, go through it. Help is on the other side.

Love, Angela