

The Story Page

Stories of Hope and Healing

From soccer mom to recovering drug addict to public speaker

No one ever expects to battle an addiction. "Addiction stole the beautiful life I once had. Prior to my addiction, I was a stay-at-home mom and this was my identity. My children and my family were everything to me. My kids would come home from school to the smell of fresh-baked cookies." For Jodi, her addiction began with pain medication prescribed by her physician for a shoulder injury. She went from a soccer mom and PTA President to heroin addict living on the streets of Tacoma and making an appearance on Washington's Most Wanted.

Once her addiction had progressed to heroin the shame was unbearable. "I couldn't stop and I couldn't allow my children to see me in that way. They were everything to me and I left them because of my addiction." Years of battling an addiction, stealing to support her habit and living in constant fear and hopelessness followed. In 2016, Jodi was released from jail and ordered to start intensive outpatient treatment. It was at the CCS Recovery Center in Bellingham that Jodi began to heal. "I was pulled up from depths unimaginable. Despite my rough exterior, my counselor, Tom, treated me with respect and dignity. I was shown empathy, despite my hostility, and given compassion in exchange for vulgarity. I was so broken."

Jodi's transformation began to occur as her recovery started to grow roots. She found employment for the first time in years. Encouraged by her counselor, Jodi applied and was accepted as part of the first graduating group for the Substance Use Disorder program at Whatcom Community College. Last June, Jodi graduated with a 4.0 GPA and is pursuing a public speaking career to share her story and to provide hope to others. "Today my passion is to become a public speaker. Now I get the opportunity to share my experience and hopefully inspire others. I'm not the same person that I was in my addiction. Today my children call me they tell me that they love me and that they are proud of me. I have been given a second chance at life. Thank you CCS - thank you for helping me find my light and for encouraging me to burn bright. Because of all of you I have had the opportunity today to live out my dreams and to share my hope with others."

"My heart's desire is to shine a light on the disease of addiction and to bring addiction up out of the darkness." Jodi's first speaking engagement was at CCS and we wish her the best in her public speaking endeavors. Thank you Jodi for sharing your hope and light.



REAL IMPACT BECAUSE OF YOU

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No one chooses to be a drug addict. Yet addiction is the disease of choice. No one faults Alzheimer's patients for forgetting their keys. Why do we blame the addict for making poor choices when the area of the brain responsible for decision making is diseased?



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