

# Spencer County citizen grateful for The Way

My name is Steven Kebortz and I am a grateful recovering addict. I grew up in Spencer County and attended South Spencer. I am 28 years old and I have lived here my whole life. My childhood was wonderful, with two loving parents and two awesome brothers. However, I never really felt like I fit in and I started experimenting with drugs at the age of 16. My drug use progressed quickly and before I turned 17 I was already using meth. I knew when I started using drugs that I had started something that was going to define my life in many ways. From the beginning, I knew that it was going to be hard to quit. I had tried to quit before and had stints of short-lived sobriety. I went to Stepping Stones in Evansville and they provided me with the knowledge and tools it takes to stay sober. However, when you leave there, the structure that they provide you with is gone. You are on your own; out in the world again and it's overwhelming in a sense that you can go and do whatever you please. Even though you may not want to do drugs you can very easily obtain them. When you've been an addict and lived that lifestyle, it is all you know. When I arrived at The Way I had been sober for three months but I had not begun to recover. To start recovery from addiction you must change your lifestyle. You must lose all of the old friends you had that are still using drugs. They will get you high before you get them sober. You must get in a routine of sober living that consists of balancing work and sober activities. The Way does just that. It provides people such as myself a solid way to transition from being an addict to a productive member of society. The Way has transformed many people right in front of my eyes in the 13 months that I was there. I will forever be grateful for the guidance, structure and support that The Way provided for me.

Thank you,  
STEVEN R. KEBORTZ