

Judy G.'s Story



At 17 years old, I started drinking. My friends were getting high. Four years later, I discovered cocaine.

My life became a mess, even though, day to day, I was able to work and make sure my children were looked after. Physically I couldn't continue the way I was and I didn't value life anymore.

In 1990, I arrived at Gaudenzia Common Ground. I didn't have a place to bring my son and daughter so they helped me find a safe place for them. I learned many things about myself and about my disease, and the tools to keep clean.

I also discovered that addiction was a part of my family for many generations, dating back to my great-grandfather's time, but no one ever talked about it.

After treatment, I earned my Bachelors degree in Organizational Behavioral Psychology. I gave back by working at Gaudenzia.

I've been clean for 21 years and I'm gainfully employed. I have a son and a daughter. I'm also a grandmother of three boys and two girls.

Treatment saved my life. It kept me away from the chaos, the lies and the deceit. And, Gaudenzia made sure I didn't lose my children.

Now, when the thought of a drink or drug comes to mind, I visualize what the consequences are.