

Charitable Fund Update

From Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, September 2017




Giving
Hope &
Purpose
to Others

*Carla Stonecipher
receives the 2016
Recovery Workforce
Scholarship*

STUDYING SOCIAL WORK at Kent State University, Carla Stonecipher made the Dean's List this past year with a 3.65 GPA. It is this kind of good news that makes Carla look back in gratitude on the past three years of living substance free – a journey that has taught her compassion for herself as well as empathy for others.

"It's always been a passion of mine to help women in hard times," Carla says. "I feel I went through all I did to be where I am today, the good and bad. I am living God's will and purpose now to help other women who suffer from abuse and trauma."

As a child, Carla suffered from verbal and sexual abuse, leading her to pursue similarly harmful relationships as an adult. At the age of 35, she started to use illicit drugs; crack followed by heroin. A decade of drugs and criminal behaviors followed, including theft.

WHAT CHANGED FOR CARLA? "I started my journey of recovery because I knew

I was on a road to nowhere. My life was empty, I was hopeless. I knew I would end up dead or imprisoned." In rehab, Carla was able to heal from her childhood trauma.

"After three years of therapy, CommQuest's Deliverance House, Regional Center for Opiate Recovery (ReCOR), intense counseling, a 12-step program, God and proper medications for bipolar 2, ADD, PTSD, acute anxiety, borderline personality disorder, cutting, alcohol and other drugs, I am able to live a healthy life."

IN HER PURSUIT TO

help other women, Carla has volunteered at CommQuest's Deliverance House and Regional Center for Opiate Recovery. She has sat on the Crosby Hall Steering Committee, spoken Tuesday evenings at RECOR and chaired 12-step program meetings (including one at the Stark County Jail).

In a reference letter for the scholarship, Ms. Sheila Brown, Director of CommQuest's

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Deliverance House, says:

"Ms. Stonecipher is a determined, persistent and positive woman. She came to treatment carrying a very heavy load, but Ms. Stonecipher never gave up regardless of the disappointments and losses. She remained teachable and therefore willing to surrender. She chose to accept life on life's terms. Today, she lives in a place of gratitude. She pays it forward with her time, smile and positive attitude. I am so proud of her decision to go back to school."

Awarded the scholarship, Carla was able to earn her Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) certificate which provided field experience and helped ease the burden of additional federal loans.

However, Carla's road today is far from trouble free. On her birthday of this year, Carla lost her younger sister due to health problems from I.V. drug use. "It makes me that more determined to stay sober and help other women. This is a testament to my baby sister's life – to share her story that her story may help others so that she did not die in vain." Carla recently relocated to Newark, Ohio in the spring of 2017 where she continues to be active in the 12-step program.

Carla's dream is to give other women the tools and resources they need to find recovery. As Carla says, "I can achieve this with my own experience, strength, hope and education. I feel everything I went through in life, the good and bad, has prepared me for this purpose." ✨



Carla received her CDCA certificate from CommQuest Services in the spring of 2017. Today, she is attending Central Ohio Technical College to obtain her LCDC2.