Hello, my name is Tera and I am an alcoholic. I have a sobriety of 7/29/2022. That is definitely God doing for me what I could not do for myself.

My story is no different that any other person with this disease. The things that led up to my sobriety date may be different, but the outcome is the same as theirs. The day before I chose to attempt to get clean was nothing special; nothing dramatic happened that pushed me to that decision that day….I was simply tired of living the way I had been and wanted to do something different. I had hit my "bottom" but had no idea how to use that to my advantage. I knew that I could not do it on my own because I had woke up every day for years trying to stop and was never successful. I was broken, lost, and defeated. I had started on the first step and did not even realize it. I admitted that my life was unmanageable and that I was powerless over drugs and alcohol.

July 29th, 2022 was the day that I realized I was desperate for a solution to my disease and was willing to try anything other than the insanity that I had been living. I decided to go to rehab in Midland but had no intention in telling anyone that I was going. I sold my car for dope, so I had no vehicle or money to get there. I walked outside and there was a truck parked across from my house and the guy inside yells at me and asks if I need a ride somewhere. I had no idea who this man was but I also didn't care. I told him I needed a ride to rehab and said I would give him money for gas and a sack of dope if he would take me. I loaded up my things and we head to Midland. The entire drive there I spent smoking as much meth as I possible could and then decided that I needed to eat some as well. The man drops me off and drives off and it hit me that I was really doing this….there was no backing out at this point.

I had every intention in returning back to my house after I left rehab. Three days before I was scheduled to be discharged I decided returning back to that same environment would not be healthy for me. I had heard about others in rehab going to this thing called sober living but had no clue what it was. I spoke to my counselor and he had me fill out an application to Straight Line for a spot at their women's house. That same day I was accepted and had a spot secured. I left rehab on August 30, 2022 and went straight to Mabel's house. I wish I could say that the first 30 days there were blissful but that would not be the case because I was still dealing with certain demons within myself. I had a house here in Odessa that was mine, paid for with my boyfriend waiting there for me to return. Not going back to the place that I had spent the last 15 years of my life and going to a place that was not in my comfort zone was difficult for me. Today, I know that me living there for 5 months was the best decision besides going to rehab that I had ever made.

Kevin Tyson, in my eyes, is my personal angel here on earth. One of the requirements for living in the house was to attend 5 meetings a week and I met that requirement and then exceeded the amount. One of the AA groups is located down the street for the house. I still did not have a vehicle so being able to be in walking distance from there was a blessing. I put everything I had into doing exactly what I was told to do and not ask any questions as to why. If Kevin told me I was speaking in front of people for an hour then that is what I did. Once I began to show a little change and dedication to staying sober I was offered the house manager position. There were 4 other ladies there and counting me it totaled 5. I could not have been anymore blessed than to

be housed with the 4 women I was with. We all created a bond that none of us were use to having with another women. We began to trust other women and began to rely on each other for support. Having that sort of unity makes staying sober a little less difficult.

Because of Straight line and Kevin, I am now living at home and have been for 5 months now. I am active in recovery with the local rehab here in Odessa. I am privileged to say that I chair the Sunday night meeting at that rehab. I was also given the opportunity to take a meeting into the Clover House, which is a halfway house for women, every Monday evening. The opportunity to be able to go and listen to women that struggle with addiction but know other life other than jail is a very humbling experience. I can walk into that place feeling sorry for myself because I have feel I have had a bad day and walk out thankful for the struggles that I have today. I have been sober for almost 10 months now. There was a time when I could not imagine myself going 10 minutes without getting high. I am comfortable with the person I am today and more importantly I can look at myself in the mirror and love the person looking back at me. I can recall a time when I couldn't even look myself in the eyes because I hated the person looking back at me.

Kevin and Straight line have helped me to become a person that I can be proud of today. I have a relationship with both of my kids after not speaking to them for 5 years. My family is slowly starting to trust me. I have a job that I have been at for 8 months which is saying something for a person like me. I have people who think enough of me to call and ask me for advice. All the glory goes to God but Kevin and Straight line loved me until I could figure out a way to love myself. They held my hand when I didn't think I could go on another day. They have shown me a new way of life that I try and embrace every day!!!

Tera Harrington