

## ***SRO Stories...***

### ***I am a man in my 30's; I had been an alcoholic since I was a teen.*** I

struggled with relationships too, due mostly to the alcohol. I did become a father to a daughter born while I was still in my teens that I couldn't care for and didn't really have a relationship with until I was older. I did get a job and worked and to support her as best I could and I tried to sober up, but it didn't work and I kept right on drinking.

I tried to sober up again and eventually got married and had two more children, but I kept right on drinking. In my late 20's I got arrested and at that point my already troubled marriage took a turn for the worse and at that time I tried recovery again. When I got sober I realized I was in an abusive relationship and needed to make a significant change. I went into very active recovery and returned to my Christian roots; you see I did not have a troubled childhood to blame my current situation on. I participated in the "Outward Bound" (a kind of recovery program) and it made all the difference in my life, my marriage still went south, but my relationships with my children became my sustaining joy.

It was at this point I got involved with the SRO I needed to be somewhere safe to continue a sober life and rebuild what I had destroyed, it was a good fit. Eventually I became a "House Manager" and I helped as many people as I could with whatever I could trying to "put something back" and to live in a positive way. I eventually got a good job and became a productive member of my community and I took pride in my family and my community.

### ***You are my son, you are bright and funny*** and you are one of several children.

I tried very hard with you and your brothers, but the times and the Street eventually took all of you boys. Your oldest brother is in prison for many years and your other brother has finally begun to turn his life back, but you are so steeped in drugs and alcohol that I fear for you all the time. Then I find you have been arrested again for drug use, I know that you are a hard worker, but now you face 2-7 years for a felony conviction. Then I find that you are in a "Drug Court" Program and again I pray for you.

You have a wonderful new girlfriend, but how much will she take before you are alone again and hurting yourself. Slowly, slowly you make progress, I look to hear from you, to hear

about you, I know you are ashamed to talk to me and I fear every time I talk to you it will be bad news. At that point you entered something called the “SRO”, they provided case mgt. and support for recovery. You completed a 30-day rehab program and you are now in the “SRO” and going to AA meetings there will be people at the SRO to help you and encourage you and help you rebuild your life but will you ever have any kind of life?

Time goes on, you get a job, you get back to work, you start to call more and then you come to visit and who is this young man, I almost don't know you, you have so changed, can things be that different?

More times goes by, progress seems slow, but you have a good job now one with growth potential and a future and can it be true, am I really am going to be a grandmother again, my prayers have been answered! You and your new family will have a new start in a new life. I can't wait until you come to see me again!

***You are my little brother. You are bright and energetic and full of promise.*** You attended SUCO on a Basketball Scholarship, you were a good player and you were doing so well, somewhere in your Junior year you damaged your knee and couldn't play anymore, but that was OK you said and you graduated anyway. But you didn't come home instead you decided to stay in Oneonta, you had friends there you said and you wanted to make a clean start. I think sometimes it was challenging to come home you had a lot to live up to, moms a teacher, I'm a lawyer, sis is a cop and our other brother has a construction company. I give you credit for striking out on your own.

Then things start to go wrong, you can't find employment and you become depressed, when you do find a job things don't go well, you end up losing your job and the depression sets in much worse and it takes hold. We offer to help but you wanted to make it on your own and you didn't want to come back to NYC you were afraid being here would just make the situation even worse for you.

Then you find a place you tell us it is an “SRO”, you explain that they will help you there, help you get stable, assist you to get help with the depression, help you find a job and help you get back on your feet. It takes some time and work, the depression has taken its toll on

you but you keep trying, jobs are hard to keep for you and you struggle to make ends meet, but you are safe and people are working with you.

It takes time but eventually the depression is controlled and you find a place where your talents can be put to good use you start working and this time things really come together for you and your life really becomes a good place again. It is good to have my little brother back.

***You are my mother, dad has died and things have not been easy for you*** since then but you have always been very independent. You worked for several years and held it together, but your health began to fail. Then you couldn't afford the apartment anymore and had to move. Because of your health you really needed to be around people, it wasn't a good idea for you to live alone. Neither sis nor I could take you for very long, our houses were too small and our families were young and that was hard enough it was complicated even more because of your health. You applied for SSD/Disability but were denied even though you were in and out of the hospital and couldn't work and were constantly on oxygen.

You finally had to apply for Social Services so you could get health insurance and they could help you with a place to live that would be good for you. Then you told us about the "SRO" and that they would help you with your SSD/Disability and your other health related services, you would be able to afford to live there and there would be people around so you would be safe and there would be someone to assist you with any other concerns. It seemed like the best thing and it has been good for you there. You have made friends and you are safe and happy and things are starting to come back together for you. Your health has even improved as other things in your life have stabilized you are feeling good again.