



## "IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS"

October 2020

### **To Him who is able!**

My name is Mariah and I am a graduate of Healing House. Let me start by saying that I never wanted to set foot in any Christian based program, let alone spend 3 years of my life there. Now I can tell you that I am grateful for the time. God knew what I needed!

In my addiction, I basically became numb to everything in life. I had been hurt so much that nothing even phased me anymore. My sister died of an overdose in 2013 and that was very hard on me. In 2016, my mom passed away unexpectedly. The following year, another one of my sisters lost a battle to ALS. I dove deep into the drugs and alcohol at this point. I truly got to the point where I did not care if I lived or died. I put myself in terrible situations. I was in extremely abusive relationships. I pushed away anyone who cared about me or loved me, including my 2 children. This created an overwhelming amount of shame and guilt. In 2015, I lost custody of my children. This was absolutely the worst time in my life.

I was in and out of jail and eventually I had warrants in 3 different counties. The last time I got picked up, I decided I had had enough! I was sitting in jail on both my kids birthdays. But it was there, in jail, that I started to have a relationship with God, thanks to my brother, Brett. He is the one who told me I needed to get on my knees and pray to God and go to every Bible study that I could. So that is what I did. He also told me that I needed to go straight into a faith-based treatment program. Part of me just wanted to get out and get high again. I hadn't been sober in years and I didn't know if I was ready for it, but I missed my kids more than anything! Aside from that, when I went to court, the judge asked me how old I was and how long I planned on living like this. I was almost 35 years old. He had a good point.

After spending the entire summer in jail, my prayers were finally answered and I was furloughed to a faith-based treatment program in August 2017. I have to say, that was the longest 15 months of my life! It still amazes me that I graduated from that program, but I did it! The best thing from that program was my mentor, who is still with me today! I am grateful for my dad who stuck by my side the whole time I was in there. He came to visit often. My sister and brothers were also very supportive. I am also very grateful to my kids' dad who graduated the same program the year before me and would bring our kids to see me as often as possible. Getting to see them, especially that first time, gave me the hope and strength to keep pressing on. I was told that a requirement of my graduation was to go to Healing House of Metro Hope because I wasn't quite ready for everyday life.

October 2018, I went to Healing House but I wasn't happy about it! Thankfully that didn't last long! My case coordinators, Kay and Mikki, were amazing! They were always there to listen to me, talk and support me. Most of the women that I lived there with, I had already known from my previous program, but living together at Healing House just made us grow closer and love each other even more. I loved Healing House! There was always someone to talk to and the staff was so understanding. Most had been where I was. I loved the chapels because I was learning about God and building my relationship with Him more and more. Healing House is where I was shown how much God loves me every day. At Healing House, I never

felt alone, God was with me and He was working miracles. My children's grandparents had custody of my kids but they had a restraining order against me so I couldn't see them. God restored my relationship with them! While I was still at Healing House, they welcomed me into their home again and I had my kids every weekend for overnights, attended their sporting events and family therapy. The relationship with my kids is healed. I wish I could say that recovery has been easy, but it is not. All of the hard work is definitely worth it though! I graduated from Healing House in July 2019 but didn't move out until May 2020.

Today, my life is amazing! I am a new bride! When I met my husband, he asked me how my faith was! I thought that was interesting! He treated me with more love and respect than I knew what to do with. Not only that, he loves the Lord as much as I do! I have had a full-time job for a year now at Luther Automotive that I love! I had not worked since 2013. Even though I do not have custody of my children yet, I have a great relationship with them! We do sleepovers, my daughter messages me, my son and I play tennis. I am even allowed to go to their grandparents to read bedtime stories to them. My ex-husband and I are both sober and get along well. I have the most amazing women in my life. At my wedding reception I realized that I've lost a couple of sisters but God has blessed me with a whole lot more! These women have taught me the true meaning of friendship!



I have been sober for 3 years. I am at peace today. I spend a lot of time in the Word and praying. I think of others today and not myself. I remind myself to focus on the future, not live in the past where I had no hope. Today I have joy and gratitude! I'm so grateful to have been at Healing House! Jesus is first in everything at Metro Hope and now He is first in everything in my life! Metro Hope's Healing House is where my addiction ended and my family was restored! All the glory belongs to God! ❤️ Ephesians 3:20



All of the women with Mariah are graduates of Healing House from the past 3 years. All of these women are thriving in life and they all love Jesus! They are all mothers and they all have full-time jobs, several even attending school. At Metro Hope, when hearts turn toward Jesus, He brings beauty from ashes!

Thank you for all of the ways you support Metro Hope, through your prayers, finances and time. You are making an invest into God's kingdom! God chooses each person who walks through our doors, and when they enter, it is Jesus that they experience. All of our Christ-centered programming is funded through donors, like you! We could not share God's Word or teach our residents how to live life His way without you. None of the children living at Healing House could be healing alongside their mothers without you. You are God's gift to us and you are a vital part of this mission, of saving lives for His Kingdom! At Metro Hope, knowing Jesus is our first goal, freedom from the sin of addiction is a gift given through a relationship with Jesus. I hope you will share this newsletter with those around you so others can read Mariah's story of God's glory and the miracles He is still performing everyday at Metro Hope!

God bless you, *Cammy Oren, Board President*

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