

making a DIFFERENCE for a LIFETIME FAITHWORKS!

Francis Court Transitional Housing & House of Cornelius for Veterans

This is Brad and Kayla's story Spring 2017

Hi, my name is Kayla,

I grew up in a little town called Weed, California. My family was very dysfunctional growing up. My Dad was a very abusive alcoholic and drug addict. My mother was a perfect Mom until I was about 8 years old. That is when she finally left my Dad. My Mom got a new boyfriend named Jose who introduced me to OxyContin and fentanyl patches to my Mother. That's when my family and childhood started to fall apart. My mother was nodded out for the next 10 years. I had to grow up fast. I had to take care of my brother and Jose's 3 kids because our parents would never come out of the room. I use to pound on her bedroom door just to hear her voice and if she didn't respond most of the time was because she overdosed. I had to call 911 so many times, and there were many times I thought my Mom was dead. My Mom stopped going to mine and my brother's games; we stopped having Christmas, birthdays and she stopped buying us school clothes and food. Everything went to drugs, even our furniture.

When my brother was about 13 he started using drugs and was in and out of juvenile hall. I started doing any school activity and any sports so I didn't have to go home because I hated it there. When I was 17 I got pregnant. I was scared but excited to get out of my Mom's house. I got my own apartment and had a beautiful daughter. I was in a very abusive relationship, one time my ribs got broken. When I took my first pain pill, I was hooked. I started meth at 19 years old and it took maybe 6 months and I lost everything fast. My daughter, my home, my car, my job and my sanity. My daughter was everything to me and when I lost her, I lost my mind. That is when I started selling drugs, stealing cars, robbing houses; I didn't care who I hurt, I had to get high so that I couldn't feel, this is how I numbed the pain. I was in and out of jail then my probation officer put me on

AOP (Addicted Offender Program) and it literally saved my life. I completed drug court, outpatient rehab and I got my daughter back from CFS (children family services) case was closed. I had my son Korey – everything was good until I got off probation and started selling oxy's and eventually got high. I know now the whole time I had reservations.

After the relapse my life started falling apart. My Mom got 10 years in prison, my brother got 18 years, my Dad got life. My grandma committed suicide, my step dad committed suicide, my uncle died of liver failure and my Aunt Barb died of a heart attack. I was lost and felt like I had nobody. Self-pity, guilt and shame kept me in my addiction. This time I knew that if I didn't stop using CFS would take my kids, that is how strong addiction is, I couldn't stop. So, I decided to take my daughter to her Dad's and Korey to his grandma's. This was one of the hardest things I have ever done but I knew it was what was best for my kids. After that I started using needles and tried heroin for the first time. The needle brought me to my rock bottom and the darkest time of my life. It is sick how you can love something that has taken everybody and everything that you love away. I was so tired of life, I was mentally, emotionally and spiritually broken, tapped out. God brought me to a recovery program March 8, 2015. They took me right in, no questions asked. The 1st time I went to recovery was a totally different experience than the 2nd. The first time I was present but didn't hear the message and I got complacent which led me straight to a relapse. The program gave me more chances than I deserved. The second time I entered residential treatment I was pregnant. I felt ashamed, embarrassed and felt like I let everyone down. But once again the program welcomed me back. I am very appreciative to those that never gave up on me. It is because of the Lord and staff as reasons I am where I am today. Since I have been sober and walking with the Lord there has been so many miracles and blessings every single day. Once I left that program Brad and I moved into our own apartment and it honestly

felt too good to be true.

Our new apartment was at Francis Court and the day Monique Taylor showed us our new home was one of the best days of my life because I realized how much God restored everything in my life. God restored everything that was stolen from me. Since the first day we moved in everything else just fell into place. I started getting weekend visits with my son Korey, then weekly visits and then full custody. I have a safe, stable home to bring my new born baby home to. Monique got Brad an amazing job that he loves. I have visitation with my 9-year-old daughter. Our life today is amazing.

Hi, my name is Brad,

I was born and raised in Redding, CA. When I was young I had a pretty good life. I lived with my mother, brother and sister. My Mom was a drug and alcohol counselor and we went to school. Everything was all good, until the night my Mom got a call saying my oldest brother had died in a motorcycle accident. It all started to go downhill from there. About a year later I walked into my Mom's room to her shooting up meth. I met her friend who was a dealer and started using constantly. My first-time smoking meth I went out and robbed a house. I got 1st degree residential burglary, skipped court and went on the run.

My life went from riding bikes, quads, catching snakes and lizards to robbing people and getting high every day and night. I was now a wanted felon.

My Mom's relapse was bad. She was so into drugs that's all she cared about. We kids had no food, no nothing. Always druggies in our house using. So, I decided to start selling to take care of my brother. My sister had a different Dad and moved into his home. I lived the life of a drug dealer, a wanted felon for a little over a year until I was caught by the cops. I ended up doing 8 months in juvenile hall at 15 years old. When I got out I found out my Mom had moved to Chico with her new boyfriend who had a lot of money. They were living in a lot of hotels and using more than ever.

I decided to do my own thing and what I know best, selling drugs. Never reported to probation and was on the run again. Stayed like that for 2 years and my Probation Office seen me and locked me up.

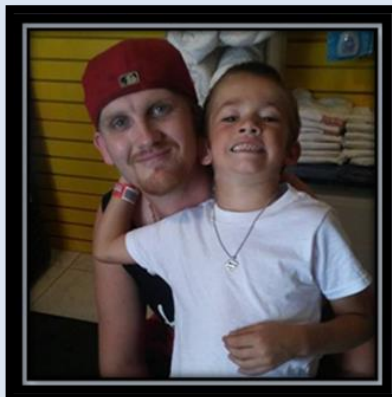
I stayed in juvenile hall until I turned 18. Got out on my birthday and off probation as well.

Still in Chico I kept using, stealing cars, robbing people and fighting a lot. Eventually after a year or two I got tired of Chico and went back to Redding. No probation, no job, no home so I started selling again to get by and found my Aunt and moved in with her. She was a druggie too and would leave for months at a time so I pretty much had my own house for a year or so. Eventually I was kicked out and with nowhere to go I started stealing from stores and people again to make more money. I got caught and back on probation. This cycle continued for 5-6 years or so, then I started using heroin as well. I eventually got tired of it and got treatment. In and out of treatment for a few years

The last time I did the program, I met my fiancé Kayla there. We graduated the program, got blessed by the Lord and was accepted into Faithworks, Francis Court program. I now have my family, a place to call home for me and my family. We have nice furniture, flat screen TV's, a good job that Francis Court found for me and 2 vehicles. I dreamed of the life I live today but never thought I would live it. But because of the help from Francis Court and Monique I now live the life I once dreamed about. I give thanks and all the glory to the Lord every day and night as well. I think that Francis Court is amazing and a blessing how they reunite families and help with housing. I will forever be grateful to them.

GOD BLESS, Brad 2017





We just wanted to share one of our family's successes with you. They amaze us from what they have been through and where their lives are today! Kayla and Brad are just one example of the many families that have been through our program.

Currently we have been able to house 178 families and 53 veterans.

I am so grateful to everyone; the volunteers, the donors, the City of Redding, agencies we partner with, Faithworks Board of Directors and mostly to the staff. Faithworks is the successful program today because of the many people dedicating their resources and their time.

Kayla and Brad have often shared with me that they needed the time in the program to become responsible. They needed to learn to pay their rent on time, pay their utilities and keep their apartment clean. Before learning this, they were not ready for permanent housing. Transitional housing gave them the structure and accountability they needed to be successful in permanent housing.

Monique Taylor
Executive Director

FaithWORKs Community Coalition Inc.
4/19/17

Francis Court I & House of Cornelius

- ❖ We have housed 178 families to date. This is a total of 623 people (386 are children) and 53 Veterans
- ❖ 129 families have graduated our program by finding permanent housing.
- ❖ 198 Children have been returned to their parents from out of home placement (Foster care, kinship care). This reunites families and saves the county and state \$1,500 a month per child
- ❖ 93 adults at Francis Court have found stable employment
- ❖ 38 adults returned to continue or finish their education or attend job training.
- ❖ 4 of our adults have earned their degrees.
- ❖ 45 families have gotten off all public assistance completely
- ❖ 4 of our graduating families have become homeowners.
- ❖ 29 healthy babies have been born to clean and sober mothers! (100%)

House of Cornelius

- ❖ We have 53 housed veterans
- ❖ At House of Cornelius 38 Veterans have successfully graduated the program and moved into permanent housing.
- ❖ 8 of our veterans have found permanent employment
- ❖ 9 of our veterans have returned to college or job training.
- ❖ 1 of our Veterans became a homeowner!!!



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