

UCHRA SAS CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: JUSTIN VINCENT



Justin Vincent is a client of UCHRA's Substance Abuse Solutions (SAS) program. The following information was provided by the client and has been edited for clarity.

It was Justin Vincent's first day at his new job as a dishwasher at Cracker Barrel. He had no idea how much his life was about to change.

"On my way, sitting on the front porch at Cracker Barrel, was a longtime family friend; someone that had been a friend to my mom since I was just a little boy," Justin said.

It was Niki Payne, Recovery Coordinator for Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency's (UCHRA) Substance Abuse Solutions (SAS) program. She was sitting on the porch with two of her colleagues; one of which, Luke Eldridge, Recovery Services Manager with UCHRA SAS, had crossed Justin's path before.

"I had reached a place in my life where I was just tired of living that way and needed to make a change," Justin said. "I had prayed and prayed that God (would) show me that I was worth something and then here these guys come telling about this program."

The SAS team leapt into action, explaining the process and how they could help Justin regain control of his life and move toward a life of stability and independence.

"I mean you've got this drug-addicted felon that had no trust in anyone let alone any kind of government organization," Justin explained.

He continued to push through and as he did, doors kept opening up. From paying for a transitional room at a motel, to helping Justin get gas to drive back and forth to work, to helping Justin and his fiancée get into more stable housing.

"They helped get me the funds I needed to pay the first months' rent on an apartment that I only thought possible in my dreams.

"For the first time in my life, I was able to fill out an application for an apartment got approved," he added. "if not for this program, I would never had thought that any of it could be possible."

Today, Justin and his fiancée, Callie, now live in a two-bedroom apartment in Justin's name and are expecting the arrival of their child in the coming months.

“ IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS PROGRAM I DON'T BELIEVE I WOULD HAVE HAD THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF THE WAY I DO TODAY. ”

- JUSTIN VINCENT, UCHRA CLIENT