

This is more of a story about my road to redemption, than a success story. I was released from serving a 22 ½ - 45 years sentence on October 27, 2021. I went into prison at the age of 23 and served 23 years. I thought I knew what being a man was however it had to take that serious bad choice to make me learn a hard lesson that I was merely a scared, lost and confused kid at 23.

My knowledge of Lydia's Place came from another organization called Human Services Center Mon Valley. Specifically, my Counselor there Ms. Iris Grilho connected me with a wealth of resources. I began writing them approximately a year before my possible release. I'm a firm believer that if you are ready, you don't have to get ready.

After working various part time jobs and completing CDL school, I'm beginning to make way as I'm establishing myself as a productive citizen. When I finally secured housing through Lydia's Place, Human Services Center Mon Valley furnished every room. I was honored at a ceremony hosted by them on my progress within a year's time. I went on to volunteer at the local food bank hosted by Human Services Center Mon Valley as a way to give back to my community.

The hard work didn't begin when I came home however, it began years prior to that while still serving time. I made good use of my time by completing various groups, classes, and courses. I grew up in that time of being away and didn't hold anybody responsible for my incarceration except myself.

Without the assistance of Lydia's Place, it would have taken me a considerably longer time to obtain adequate housing. I am forever grateful to Lydia's Place and their staff for the hard work and dedication in assisting me in this beginning phases on my road to redemption.

With sincere thanks,

Rico Carter