



THE MAINLINE

MARCH 2017

Greetings,

We write you as representatives of Heroin Anonymous World Services (H.A.W.S.). This informational bulletin's purpose is to increase communication between the groups of Heroin Anonymous throughout the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIPS & LITERATURE CHAIR

In an effort to increase convenience and accessibility of the Chips & Literature ordering features on the H.A.W.S. website, we will be introducing bundle options in March. We have created quantities that reflect common orders from the fellowship in various bundles. In addition, we are excited to announce that we now carry up to 40 year key tags. If your group has a member with over 40 years of recovery, please contact the committee so we can help celebrate their sobriety by having new chips made.

ONE HEROIN ADDICT'S STORY

I've been a part of the growing fellowship of Heroin Anonymous on Long Island since I moved out of treatment in January of 2014. With little knowledge of what anonymous fellowship meetings consisted of, I was welcomed into a community that today I call my home. Five and a half years ago, someone I admire had a vision of what this fellowship could be. Mindful of the growing heroin epidemic in our community, he started something he believed would be beneficial for everyone. Stuck in my own addiction at the time, I had no idea recovery was even possible for someone like me.

A life based on spiritual principles appeared to be out of reach. Death seemed the only option.

The group this man started began to send trusted members to carry the message into the institution I was in. The word of something different happening for these recovered heroin addicts was spreading like wildfire. The day I left treatment was the first time I entered the rooms of H.A. Nearly 100 men and women congregated in a church basement, sharing the solution they had found to their seemingly hopeless obsession with heroin. I

walked into that room and saw a group of young people speaking on and sharing a solution I knew nothing about. I felt deep down that this was exactly where I needed to be. I made a point to get acquainted with these strangers who welcomed me like I was a part of their family.

I have grown over my three and a half years in this fellowship, and this fellowship has grown with me. We went from having just one meeting to twelve meetings. We've formed an area committee meeting, where we do our best to make sure this

Contact H.A.W.S. Bulletin:

All correspondence will be filtered by our H.A. bulletin committee at: haworldbulletin@gmail.com.

We can also be contacted through our web site at: www.heroinanonymous.org.

fellowship continues to grow and thrive. I have watched newcomers come in and recover and follow a passion to help others see that there is a way out. I am often overwhelmed with gratitude that one person's vision has manifested to what it is today. From a small bunch of heroin addicts just trying to

combat the rapid rate of heroin overdoses in our community, to hundreds of recovered addicts living beautiful lives today, we have shown that heroin addiction doesn't need to be the end for us. With God as our guidance, this is but a beginning. Heroin Anonymous will continue to

grow with great success in my community and others all over the world. It has been a blessing to have this opportunity to be a part of this fellowship.

- Samantha, an H.A.
Member in Long Island, NY

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

"Hope Over Dope" Group - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

On Wednesday nights, you can find a group of men and women gathered at a church in suburban Philadelphia. Though we come from all walks of life, we unite in our battle to overcome a common foe, whom we identify as heroin addiction. Drug related overdoses have risen sharply in Pennsylvania, and with no end in sight, we knew we must band together to fight or perish alone. With a few months of preparation, Hope Over Dope became our battlefield.

Although the Hope Over Dope group of Heroin Anonymous has only been around for about three months, it has really resonated in our community. We enjoy a wide variety of other 12 step fellowships in our area, but who better understands the plague of heroin addiction than other heroin addicts? At Hope Over Dope, we find companions who can relate to our past, and share a vision of the future. We are individuals coming together as one, supporting each other as we recover from the ravages of heroin addiction. Though collectively we do not boast an abundance of clean time, we practice the principles as we understand them, reaching out to the newcomer with open arms. We know that we can only hold onto this new life we have found by showing others the way.

The solution we have found is simple, but not easy, and we personify this contrast. We work hard at our sobriety but maintain a laid-back atmosphere. Step work and service is the foundation of our recovery. Each speaker carries the message that recovery is possible through this solution, and our suffering does have an end. We are all shining examples of how the program grants us a life we once believed was impossible. Janis Joplin sang, "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." We had nothing left to lose but have found a new sense of freedom in Heroin Anonymous.

If you would like your meeting featured in our meeting spotlight, or have any other content you would like to submit, please feel free to contact us at the email listed. Thank you!

- Heroin Anonymous World Services Board

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