



RACHEL'S STORY

ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE SAVES LIVES AND SUPPORTS NEW FUTURES



Three years ago, Rachel found herself in jail for the second time in as many weeks facing two felony charges. After a lifetime of abuse, trauma, and addiction, she had finally hit rock bottom. The court offered her a choice: more jail time or a year in Justin's Place, St. Matthew's House year-long addiction recovery program.

She chose the latter, and twelve months later, Rachel graduated. Without a doubt, "St. Matthew's House saved my life," Rachel said.

*For Rachel,
the transitional housing
and workforce
development opportunities
St. Matthew's House
provided after graduation
were just as important
as the recovery
program itself.*

After graduation, Rachel worked with her case manager to make a plan for reentry. She took a position in the warehouse that serves our thrift stores, and over the next 15 months she worked her way up to store lead.

"It meant I didn't have to go home to the same mess," she explained. The stronger Rachel became, the more she wanted to give back and serve women who were struggling with addiction as she had. She became a case manager and then intake supervisor at Campbell Lodge. "I share my testimony during every intake. I can tell these women that I have been where they are, that they don't have to do this anymore. I can cry with them, and I can give them hope," Rachel said.

Rachel is passionate about **Journey Together** and the opportunity for St. Matthew's House to serve more people through its addiction recovery program.

"These women are dying. Addiction is fast and fierce," Rachel said. **"We need to grow our programs now.** St. Matthew's House breaks the cycle of addiction so mothers can be mothers, fathers can be fathers, and children can have parents they look up to. Our programs save lives and support new futures."