



# THE NA UNITY

*You can choose you*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

You can choose you	1
My gratitude speaks	2
Out of the mouth of babes	3
Step Five	3
Clean Time Celebrations	3
Service and Activities	4

Western Wayne Area of N.A. needs your support! All members are welcome to attend. Open service positions available with minimum of one year clean. Day, location and open positions are located on pg. 4.

Our symbol states, "Goodwill is best exemplified in service; proper service is "Doing the right thing for the right reason.""

Hello, my name is Jessie L., and I am a grateful recovering addict. Motherhood for me is so bittersweet. On the one hand, I am the mother of five beautiful children. When I got clean I did it so that I could be their mother. Not only out of love but out of desperation for the situation, my using put them in. Staying clean of course had to be about me and that came much later. On the other hand, I am an estranged daughter by my choice.

I walked into the rooms of N. A at twenty-three years old completely broke without my children. My mother had taken them from me and rightfully so. However, my mother had more devious motives for taking my children than my drug use. I spent the first few years of my recovery chasing a way to get my children back. My mother did little to help me in my early recovery. She did a lot of things to hinder my recovery. She kept my children from me and continued the cycle of abuse for many years. She also continued to raise my children around the man who sexually abused both my sister and me. Also, allowing my sister who was still in active addiction around them.

I eventually realized her keeping them from me had little to do with my addiction and everything to do with my legal rights. After some time, clean I was I did end up getting my one daughter back. She was born addicted to drugs and was a huge inconvenience to my mother's life. I spent the next several years trying to juggle my toxic mother's feelings, my own family, and my recovery. The mistake of my life was not choosing me right from the start. I did not want to lose my mother.

During my early recovery, my maternal grandmother stepped up to the plate. Although my Nana was five hundred miles away, she supported me, showed me unconditional love, and was there for me in every way that she could. Also, my children's Godmother had given me a place to stay. She believed in me when I could not believe in myself. She gave me a home and welcomed me into her family.

Without the mothering of these two women and countless women in the rooms of N.A I would have died from the disease of addiction. Although my mother could not be what I needed her to be. Higher Power sent me other mothers to help me. My other daughter did not return to me until she was twelve years old. My mother made the same mistakes with my child that she had made with my sister and me. My little girl was braver than I was. She saw her life was all wrong and she chose herself! She got out! Fortunately, she also had me as a haven to run to. I had remarried and had two more children. We were also in the process of fighting for the safe return of my adopted daughter. The world was locked down from COVID meanwhile my family was fighting court battles left and right. We came out victorious in all of them! I was granted full sole custody of my child as well as my adopted daughter. Finally, I had all five of my children with me, LEGALLY!

After my oldest daughter came home my mother and I tried to make our relationship work. We had lost my little sister to the disease of addiction,

Continued on pg. 2

and I did not want to lose her too. Unfortunately, nothing changes if nothing changes. I had gotten better and changed my life. My mother was the same toxic person she always was. The last straw came when she allowed my daughter to use drugs. In her home where my sister's urn sat on a shelf. My mother had learned nothing. The past was going to repeat itself if I did not stand up for my child. Finally, I chose us, and I told my mother she needed to get some therapy and until then we would have no contact. That was almost two years ago now. At first, it was difficult but like all things time heals. I was able to heal from the non-stop gaslighting and abuse. Through lots of therapy, love from the women in the rooms, and my sponsor I have been able to find some acceptance.

My mother will never be what I need her to be and her presence in my life only inflicts more harm. I love her but I cannot allow that toxic behavior in my life or my children's lives. I am grateful for the love of my sponsor. Next to my Nana, she is the most important mother figure in my life. She has helped me see my worth. Walked with me through the abuse, the yelling, the crying, the court battles, and so much pain. Working the twelve steps with her and showing another woman my soul, my scars, my secrets, and her constant love and acceptance helped me heal. She showed me the unconditional love that my mother never could. She taught me about boundaries and between her and my grand sponsor, I have learned that no one has the right to hurt you. Even your mother.

As Mother's Day approaches, I watch my loved ones cherish the mothers in their lives. I am making a crocheted blanket for my sponsor. I get her a gift every year for Mother's Day. I am grateful for this process. I am grateful that I am not my mother. I am grateful for the chance to be a mother to five beautiful children. To be able to break the cycle. I may not be the perfect mother. I do not always do everything right and my clean time does not match their lifespan. However, I stay teachable and willing. I apologize, I show up and I put their needs on the same level as mine. Not above, not below but on the same level. Balance is the key to motherhood and recovery.

Thank God for the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous and my Power for giving me the motherly love nature did not and for my children. Most importantly, for giving me the strength to share my story so that other women who have lost their children, experienced great loss, and suffered abuse at the hands of their mothers know:

You are NOT ALONE –WE DO RECOVER and you can choose you.

Love, Jessie L

May-2024

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### *My Gratitude Speaks*

I've been going to a lot of meetings and watching the transition is the world of recovery, addicts in, and the ones that's going in and out, and I remember when that was me in my early days to the narcotics anonymous program and that was way back in 1992 when the seed was planted and in 2009 I finally got clean but the literature/meetings were always apart of my life just as food and water because I love narcotics anonymous it is the only family that I have. I'm a meeting addict and on page 55 in the Basic text, chapter What Can I Do ? We have learned that old ideas and old ways won't help us to stay clean or live a better life. If we allow ourselves to stagnate and cling to total hipness and fatal cool we are giving into the symptoms of our disease. So we have to pick up this literature and read it, reread it, and read it again and start getting into the other books. The Literature doesn't expire and we don't graduate.

Pamela A 3 13 09 *A mother in Recovery...*

**Out of the mouth of babes**

The one thing I was so proud of was that I didn't use drugs after my youngest daughter was born. I promised myself she would never see me in the horrors of my broken spirit. This promise lasted one year of her life. Drinking and weed came first and I didn't think that was so bad. I was home, I cooked, cleaned, washed and had a job. I was at school functions, PTA meetings and all sporting events.

This went on for the first 8 years of her life. Then the disease progressed into full blown addiction and the next 2 years found me home but not present. Always in the basement or bathroom, late picking up from school, burnt food, missed school and sporting events but I was home everyday.

When I came back to NA I was so happy, I knew the program worked and wanted to get started right away. Even though the start was gradual, once it started I was making a lot of meetings, new friends, step study, service work and going back to school.

One day, my daughter was in her room crying and I asked her what was wrong? She replied, she misses her mom and wish she could have time with me. I lost time with her while using, and even more time while I was clean. I took her to meetings with me until she was old enough to stay home alone, but she didn't like that either.

My daughter was one of the first amends I had to make and we have a beautiful relationship as of now. This Mothers Day, I only asked to see her face. Her and her husband have many plans for me this year.

Balance your new life with your children or you may also hear words out of the mouths of babes.

Lisa E.

**It Works How and Why, Step Five**

Now that we have completed our written inventory, it is essential that we share it promptly. The sooner we work our fifth step, the stronger the foundation of our Recovery will be. We've built this foundation on spiritual principles such as surrender, honesty, trust, faith, willingness and courage; with each step forward in our Recovery, we strengthen our commitment to these principles. We reaffirm our commitment to Recovery by immediately working Step Five.

Pg. 49

**One Member Shared...**

“I couldn't even have a healthy relationship with myself until I had a healthy relationship with my higher power, I don't know what made me think I could have a healthy relationship with another human being”

“When we neglect our personal responsibilities we develop a pattern that carries into every area of our lives”

“It really bothers me because I know in the area of cigarettes and caffeine my addition is fully active and I'm powerless over it”



**CLEAN DATES**

**April-May**

- April 20, Matt M. 1 year
- April 24, Haley J. 6 Years
- May 1, Diana D. 25 Years
- May 3, Molly S. 5 years
- May 6, Ron S. 35 Years
- May 6, Allan T. 2 Years

“The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom.”

**Basic Text Tradition 5**



SERVICE AND  
ACTIVITIES

**Area & Sub-Committee Mtgs.**

**Upcoming Events & Activities**

**Admin Meeting:** 1:30 pm

**New GSR Orientation:** 1:30 pm

**Area Meeting:** 2 pm Second Sunday of the month:  
New Hope church. 33640 MI Ave Wayne MI 48184

**Activities:** First Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m.  
at Good Hope church. **Joe C.**

**Helpline:** Second Wednesday of each month at  
6:00 p.m. at Hype Recreation Center in Wayne MI.  
Chair: **Thomas S.**

**Hospitals & Institutions:** Third Sunday of each  
month at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope church. 28680  
Cherry Hill, Garden City MI 48135. **Kelly M.**

**Literature:** OPEN

**MSO Rep:** Mel R.

**Newsletter:** Last Wednesday of each month at 6:00  
p.m. at Hype Recreation Center in Wayne.  
Chair: **Brandon R.**

**Outreach:** Benny G.

**Policy:** Rick C.

**Public Information:** OPEN

**RCM Region:** Stefan Y.

**RCM Alt:** Stuart L.

**Web Servant:** Jasmine S.

**Workshop:** Third Sunday of each month at 7:30  
p.m. at G.O.D. group. Unity Church. **Bre N.**

**OCNA 40 is coming**

**May 24-26, 2024**

Holiday Inn Cleveland-South

6001 Rockside Rd

Independence, Ohio

Registration contact, Thurman B. 216-258-1928

**Western Wayne Area Campout**

Wolverine Campground

June 13, 14 and 15, 2024

Contact Stuart L at 313 937-0095

To reserve a site.

**World Convention NA 38**

August 29-September 1, 2024

Walter Washington Convention Center

Washington D.C.

Registration 175\$

[www.na.org/wcna](http://www.na.org/wcna)

(All submissions for the Western Wayne Newsletter  
can be directed to [duane85reece85@gmail.com](mailto:duane85reece85@gmail.com))

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_