

8-22-13

✓ TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I WAS ASKED TO STATE MY EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIFICALLY THE SMART PROGRAM. IT'S NOT ONLY AN HONOR & PRIVILEGE, BUT, ALSO GIVES ME MORE HOPE THAN IN MOST OF MY LIFE EXPERIENCES.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE I HAVE HAD LOW-SELF-ESTEEM, CHRONIC DEPRESSION, SHAME, GUILT AND SEVERE DEPRESSION MOST OF MY LIFE. HOWEVER, AFTER A SHORT 1-HOUR ASSESSMENT WITH S.S. ADVOCATE, JERRI GROSSER - I FELT A SENSE OF DIRECTION AND CONFIDENCE. PREVIOUSLY I HAD A LOSS OF APPETITE, VERY SCARED OF WHO TO TRUST AND MIXED EMOTIONS ON HOW TO LIVE.

I STARTED GOING TO THE SMART PROGRAM ONLY TO SAY I <sup>WAS</sup> RUSHED TO ANOTHER CUBICLE WHERE I MET RYAN, A QUICK FEMALE AND STERNLY, BUT KIND ASKED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. THROUGH THE PROCESS OF FOLLOWING DIRECTION MOSTLY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ADVOCATE JERRI G., I STARTED DEVELOPING SOME ENCOURAGEMENT, FAITH, HOPE AND TRUST.

IN 3 SHORT MONTHS, I WAS DIAGNOSED STARTED RECEIVING S.S.I. BENEFITS AND WAS ALSO PUT IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ALL BECAUSE OF THE SMART PROGRAM AND AFFILIATES. I AM PRESENTLY LIVING IN A REAL NICE LOW INCOME APARTMENT - BATHRM, KITCHEN & PATIO.

PREVIOUSLY I LIVED & SLEPT ON THE AMERICAN RIVER @ DISCOVERY PARK. I SLEPT NEXT TO A HUGE OAK TREE. EVEN THOUGH I PRAYED MYSELF TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT, I WAS CONSTANTLY GREETED WITH SKUNKS, POSSOMS AND UN-WELCOME HOMELESS PEOPLE.

TO SAY THE LEAST, THANKS TO THE SMART PROGRAM I CAN COOK, EAT, BATH AND CONCENTRATE ON MY RE-INTERING SOCIETY AND RECOVERY. NOT TO MENTION YOU-ALL STAFF & EMPLOYEES GAVE ME A LIFE - LEARNING COPING-SKILLS WITH SELF, ALSO INVOLVEMENT WITH FAMILY. YOU PEOPLE @ THE SMART PROGRAM ARE AWESOME AND INDISPENSABLE.