Jon Hall: ‘Recovery is possible’

In 2014, life wasn’t so great for Army veteran Jon Hall. After a few years out of the National Guard, he found himself back into his old habits before he served. He was involved in drugs and getting in trouble with the law.

That same year, while at a rehab facility, he met James Miller. As one of the peer mentors for HVAF, James was telling Jon about all of the services the organization provides for veterans.

For a few months, Jon spent time in one of our transitional houses, making improvements to his life while seeking our services. In 2015, Jon decided to come back to HVAF to participate in REST, a former HVAF program that helps drug users follow the road to recovery.*

Jon said he made lasting relationships at HVAF, as he spent lots of time with HVAF employees— including, James, peer mentor Fred Young and Elayne Lewis.

The relationship manager now, Elayne was the cook for the REST program. Jon said she even arranged for him to be baptized at her church.

“Everybody there was just helpful and kind and caring. They truly cared about what they were doing and the people there,” Jon said. “I had never experienced that and hadn’t been in a place like that before.”

Fast forward two and a half years later, Jon has regained custody of his 10-year-old son and is reunited with his children who were estranged from him before.

Now living in Lafayette, Jon works at Subaru. He said they were open to accepting his past and hiring him into a full-time position.

“My life is awesome, it really is. I feel like I’m truly blessed,” Jon said. “I’m actually responsible and productive, probably for the first time in my life.”

Although he relapsed a few more times after the REST program, Jon said HVAF helped him to learn recovery is possible.

“I think ultimately it’s something you have to figure out on your own and you have to be ready but you have to want to be ready, too,” Jon said. “And the information, the seeds that were planted there in my life, were eventually what led me to being able to turn my life around.”

*Although HVAF no longer has the REST program, James and Fred still work with veterans who are struggling with addiction. Call 317-951-0688 if you or a veteran you know would like help today.
For the third year in a row, the Indiana Podiatry Group has held a sock drive for HVAF. This year, they collected 3,000+ pairs of socks!

IPG treats all kinds of feet.

“We have had an enjoyable, fulfilling experience each time we have presented socks and other items to HVAF which is why this organization is our first choice,” Nicole Thompson, administrative & marketing assistant, said.

This donation is especially important for this time of year with the freezing temperatures.

“We are so appreciative of the 3,000 pairs of socks donated by the Indiana Podiatry Group,” Emmy Hildebrand, VP Strategic Initiatives & Public Policy, and HVAF Support Center leader, said. “They will help ensure veterans visiting our clothing and food pantries receive new, clean pairs of socks.”

HVAF Needs:
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Spaghetti
- Granola bars
- Pasta sides
- Rice-a-roni
- Dry beans
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna

Drop off your donations to HVAF Headquarters today!

The Indiana Society of Association Executives helped HVAF in a huge way at the end of 2017.

For the past 16 years, ISAE has hosted the STAR Awards— an event that celebrates its accomplishments and the people who make that possible. As they do every year, they choose a charity to raise money for at the event.

HVAF was very blessed to be the charity of choice at their December 2017 awards night. ISAE was able to raise $5,327.45 and presented the check to HVAF last week.

“We are deeply grateful the Indiana Society of Association Executives (ISAE) selected HVAF as the beneficiary of their 2018 STAR Awards fundraiser,” HVAF CEO and President Brian Copes said. “There are literally thousands of non-profit choices and we’re glad you picked us. Besides the direct financial support, the ISAE provided a unique stage from which to tell the HVAF story and expose our brand to the ISAE members and their many and varied networks.”

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Outreach Shout out!
Thanks to those who helped out at HVAF in January!

Do you have a group that would like to help in our food, clothing and hygiene pantries? Call 317-951-0688 for more info!

Pepper Construction

Ivy Tech

Fifth Third Bank

Connect with us!
Like us on Facebook
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We are also on Instagram!
Follow us @HVAFofIndiana