

When we enrolled our daughter in MWA we were in a state of panic and despair, we were witnessing through our own eyes how our beautiful girl was falling in a path of confusion and chaos fueled by drugs and impulsive behaviors. My husband and I both with PhD's in psychology could not understand why was everything going so wrong, as you can imagine as mental health professionals we felt a great sense of failure with the fact that we could help everybody else but not our most precious project, our daughter. The fact is that regardless of your profession or your trait, nothing can make you a more sensitive or knowledgeable parent to your child, we all need guidance at point or another. Nothing can describe the sense of sadness and heartbreak our family was submerged in. Nothing can describe the sense of hopelessness, especially not knowing where Raquel's behavior was heading. In the mist of our desperation we sought what appeared to be our last hope in finding a structure and protective environment for our daughter, and that was MWA. Our sacrifices had been immense but worth every second. Through the program we have learn to surrender to the idea that we knew better than anybody else how to help our child. Through the program we have learn that for changes to occur the entire family should revise their own past behaviors, their present dynamics and future as a unit. We have witnessed and experienced a program with no-nonsense agenda, full with hard work and honest feedback from people with excellent experience and best intentions. In this program nothing is sugar coated because reality is not. MWA's program gives parents and caretakers the opportunity to regain their place in the family's hierarchy, to regain control over their lives and become once again your child's guide to a healthy and productive life. Our present circumstances are once again full of hope and dreams and most importantly with a child who is now convince of all of what she is worth. We are currently seeing not a new Raquel, because her personality is intact but a more functional Raquel who loves herself more everyday and who is finally convince of all of her potential. Our child is a hard working, passionate young lady who strives for happiness one day at the time. Today she is stable and full of goals in life. Today she recognizes that nothing in life comes just with a snap of your fingers and that a healthy body, mind and family are treasures that should not be taken for granted. Today we as a family know how important is to repair and modify aspects of each one of us that were harmful and unproductive. Today we can say that we are proud to know that life is full of bumpy roads but at the same time full of rewards if families come together and decide to work hard for the greater good. We are eternally grateful to the staff for their outstanding job and for giving the best of themselves to our child. Let finish with the quote my husband found and that help us through out our journey in MWA, "One day in retrospect the years of struggle will strike you as most beautiful." -----Sigmund Freud
Iris and Mike.

We have our lives back....

I'm not sure there are enough words of gratitude in the dictionary to express how thankful I am that I have my son back. Midwest Academy made more of an impact than they will ever know. My son was making many poor choices that were leading him to destruction. I made a tough choice and am so thankful that I did. Letting him go at first was so devastating, I wasn't even sure if it was the right thing to do....but now I look back and I realize my son would probably not be alive...it was an answer to years of prayers. My son is now back at his High School, getting A's & B's, has great attendance, joined the soccer team, got a job, a drivers license and is focused on the future and making college plans. He smiles now...and that smile is real....it is drug-free...its the smile I used to see when he was just a little boy....He still faces challenges and ultimately works through them with an unbelievable process that he possesses now. He has a strength that I have never seen....he is confident and is not afraid to tell his peers when they are making bad choices...With all my heart and soul I thank God that the academy was there. If Midwest Academy only knew....they changed our family forever....I attended the seminars and thought I was doing it for him....but an amazing thing happened....I changed... I now smile too...from inside. Those seminars made more of an impact on me personally than I realized at first. I now use the skills I learned... In my job as a Youth Minister, I work with youth everyday.... I never thought I needed to make any changes....those weekends I spent with other parents and the staff...made me re-evaluate where I had been in my life, where I was, and where I was headed. I am strong, confident and yes ready to face the challenges I too am faced with.... I am 45 years old and for the first time in my life "I am true to self". I am a better mother, friend, co-worker, youth minister and many other roles that life has thrown me into. If I could....I would stand on a mountain and shout it to all other parents that have a child struggling in this very tough world we live in that there is HOPE... and I found it. They can find it too... This little Midwest school has what they need.... they have something I can't really put my finger on totally...but I will say this.... it's love....sincere tough love that brings our children back... into our arms. Not a day will go by in my life that I won't look to the heavens and thank GOD for opening that door that saved my son.... :)

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