

On My Way

The road here is quickly coming to an end. I am currently on level 6, living in the beautiful woods of Western Montana. My time here is winding down, for within a week I will be on my way to attend PC2 with my family and then home. The journey I have been on these past eleven months has been indescribable. It's been full...challenging times, sad times, and memories that I will never forget. This has truly been an experience like no other.

In actuality, my journey has just begun and this is only the first of many steps on the path. During my time in the program I have seen some others return and have heard their stories of hardships and struggles that come along with the realities of home. When I look ahead to the possible struggles I may encounter, it is rather frightening for me. I know that when I return home, things will be the same, with the exception of the changes that my family and I have made. There will still be negative peers, drugs and alcohol to contend with. My only defense will be the personal value and commitment I have created with myself and my family. Even though the struggles will be inevitable, as that is part of life, all that I can do is prepare myself to deal with them as they come up. I do not choose to run on fear. I know that a key to success with my family will open communication and understanding so that we may express concerns and problems as they come up.

I could go on forever dwelling on fears regarding setbacks and struggles, but there would be nothing productive from that. Instead I choose to be focused on the new opportunities that await me. Home will be like a fresh start. New openings to build trust, relationships and the success that I truly desire. It will be an open door for me to take charge of my life and to create whatever I want! An open door that will forever change the outcome of my life.

For now I am wrapping things up in Montana working to leave a lasting impression, so that others can do the same. I am grateful for this new chance at life and with my family. I hope that you cherish yours as well.

By Matt Madsen (Past Student)

Note: Matt is back home working successfully with his family, having graduated the program, and high school. He is currently working full time in the Service Department of a car dealership, and will begin attending college in January 1999. A further update has Matt working this summer after having attended college this last year.