

The Ultimate Christmas Gift

My son, Jason, started at Tranquility Bay in May 1998, spent a year there (including last Christmas), is now at Spring Creek Lodge. If everything goes well, he will make it home just in time for THIS Christmas. However, if he doesn't...I will persevere. Jason turned 18 on Oct. 27th, and if his task isn't yet accomplished by this Christmas, and he's willing to stay until graduating the Program as he's promised, then I will actually find a way to BE HAPPY during this holiday season, as he remains committed to his own growth. For you see, my son was into drugs and alcohol, with a heart murmur, and could have died at any second. I will choose to be happy, no matter what, because I know my son now has a second chance at life.

Is Christmas without your child hard? YOU BET!! And then you stop to consider that THIS Christmas might not have even existed for your kiddo without the Program!! Please consider this thought!! You have quite probably given your child the ULTIMATE Christmas gift. The chance to live, and to have a chance to reach their expectations. No, it's still not easy, but if you can focus on the GIFT you've given your child, then perhaps the pain will be lessened!! Come Christmas time, yes, you will miss them tremendously. YES, you will probably cry. Anything less wouldn't make much sense, to me at least. From my heart, for your child's sake, for your family's sake, I say please "hang tough" in your resolve and commitment to the "processes" of the Program. They really do work. Every kid has their own path and time frame! Some kids, as my son did, seem to "blast upward" at record pace, reaching an upper level, only to "crash and burn" back to level nothing, eventually taking accountability for their lives and move forward once again. Others, seem destined to mire in obscurity forever, only to finally "get it" and then move up non-stop. Whatever THEIR chosen path might be, please remember: the police aren't calling...the neighbors aren't calling...the school isn't calling...and your child is SAFE!! I hope my thoughts can ease your pain in general, and help on Christmas day in particular.

By Jay Goodman (Father)