

4.10.2018

My NAME IS AMANDA ESCOBAR WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE ARC, I WASNT SURE HOW MY EXPERIENCE WOULD BE, I WAS SCARED AND CRYING. ALL I KNEW IS THAT I WAS TIRED OF LIVING THE WAY I HAD BEEN. LEAVING BEHIND MY DOGS MY ~~WHOLE LIFE~~ <sup>FRIENDS, FAMILY</sup> MY WHOLE LIFE.

FROM THE MOMENT I PULLED UP EVERYONE WAS SO KIND, TELLING ME HOW I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE BY COMING IN HERE. I HAD NEVER TRIED TO WITHDRAWL FROM HEROINE / XANEX / ALCHOL SO I WAS SCARED TO GO THROUGH ALL THE PAIN.

GOING THROUGH DETOX ALL THE PAIN OF WITHDRAWL WAS ANFUL BUT ALL THE NURSES AND STAFF HELPED ME GET THROUGH IT. ALL THE TIMES THE BHT'S TALKED TO ME, MADE ME FEEL BETTER WHEN I WAS DOWN. I ALWAYS NUBBED MYSELF WITH DRUGS, SO I WOULDNT HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL THE ISSUES, I WAS FACING, FROM LOSING MY PARENTS, TO ALL THE ABUSE I WENT THROUGH WITH MY STEP-DAD TO LOSING FRIENDS, IVE BEEN THROUGH ALOT OF LOSS. MOVING FROM DETOX TO RESIDENTIAL ALL THE CLASSES ONE ON ONES HAVE HELPED ME DEAL WITH ALOT OF EMOTION I HAD PUT ASIDE. I NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT MY LIFE TILL BEING HERE. NOW BEING IN DHP I WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THAT, LEARNING HOW TO COPE WITH MY LIFE MORE, I FEEL IVE MADE SOME PROGRESS.

MOST OF ALL THE STREET TEAM HAS HELPED ME, HAVE MORE OF A PURPOSE, I LOVE GOING OUT AND HELPING PEOPLE, SPREADING

THE WORD TO PEOPLE THAT MAYBE DONT KNOW  
THERE ARE GREAT PROGRAMS LIKE THIS. THE  
ARC SAVED MY LIFE, MADE ME FEEL LOVE AND  
~~EXPERIANCE~~. ACCEPTANCE. HELPED ME SEE  
THAT I CAN LOVE MYSELF. THAT ITS OKAY  
TO BE SELFISH AND PUT MYSELF FIRST.

I NEVER KNEW THAT PLACES LIKE THIS EXSISTED.  
I FEEL LIKE IVE BEEN SO BLESSED TO HAVE  
BEEN HERE AND MADE THE PROGRESS IVE MADE.  
ILL FOREVER BE GREATFUL. ILL ALWAYS BE  
THANKFUL TO MIKE, AARON, MICHUE, DIANE  
ROXANNA, THEY ALL HAVE BEEN SO KIND TO  
ME WHEN TO SOME PEOPLE I WAS JUST SOME HEROINE  
ADDICT WHO DIDN HAVE ANY PURPOSE IN LIFE.

I DONT HAVE ANY COMPLAINS ABOUT THIS  
PROGRAM, ILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL AND  
APPRECIATE THE ENTIRE STAFF, NURSE, BHT'S EVERYONE  
FOR ALWAYS SHOWING THEY CARE.

— THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY  
TO EXPERIANCE LIFE AND TO LEARN TO  
LOVE MYSELF AGAIN. ALTHOUGH I HAVE A  
LONG WAY TO GO, IM ON MY WAY TO A  
BETTER LONGER LIFE.

Thank You  
Amanda Escobar