

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to request the continuation of the extended care program at the "Detox Centre" (Pastew Place) I strongly feel that this is a highly effective program that can literally save lives.

My brother, Mitch, has had a life-long battle with alcohol & drug abuse. He has attended many NA, AA & AADAC meetings and has participated in re-habilitation programs outside of Ft. McMurray. Mitch also served time in prison, where he received counselling for his addictions.

Some programs were more effective than others, but ultimately, in the long run, all of them failed. The last time Mitch "fell off the wagon" he ended up living on the streets. His health began to fail and our family began to brace themselves for the worst. Just when the situation seemed utterly hopeless, Janice Porth took Mitch into Pastew Place & helped to get him into a re-hab centre in High Level.

Typically, when Mitch gets out of 're-hab', he is good for awhile-but always, gradually slips back into his old habits. This time, however, he was able to leave "re-hab & go back to the Pastew Place, where his treatment continued. He has been attending regular meetings & has been counselled on the proper procedure to achieve his goals for his future.

The program that Janice has in place has helped Mitch take the necessary steps needed to succeed in his endeavours. He has re-newed all of his identification, filed all of his tax returns, send out & received a copy of his diploma, has been working with someone at Keyano college to apply for a "Heavy Haulers" program & filled out forms for low income housing. His self esteem & confidence level is higher than it has been in years.

Mitch has been clean & sober for over 9 months & has not shown any of the "tell tale" signs that he is "slipping". This is the first time in years that I actually dared to hope that my brother will make it. When past hope turned to disappointment, the pain was almost too much to bear.

The program that Janice Porth has put in place at the Detox Centre is making a difference. I really feel that this might be the turning point in Mitch's life. The "post care" will help people like my brother, to not only function in society, but to contribute to society in a very positive way.

Please keep this program alive so that it can continue to help Mitch & others like him.

Yours truly,

Melanie Gauthier