

# Darryl



**D**arryl is originally from Reading. He says he began using “marijuana, a gateway drug” at a young age—14 or 15. He then began using heroin. He moved to West Palm Beach, Florida in 2003 to be with his father’s family, and was clean and sober during that time. Darryl’s father died, and he moved back to Pennsylvania to be near his mom and four sisters. He started using drugs again and went to rehab at Colonial House in 2007.

At rehab he met his girlfriend. He moved into a halfway house in York; she moved into one in Allentown. They stayed in contact and continued their relationship. In August 2008 she became pregnant, and Darryl moved to Allentown to be with her. They lived together at an apartment in Allentown, and worked at the same place. They have a son who is almost two.

In February 2010, Darryl was alone with his son and he took him to the babysitter, who lived just down the street from them. He had received his income tax return, and went to 6th and Chew Streets to buy some drugs. Darryl says the area was under surveillance, and he was arrested. Then it was discovered that he had old warrants. He says he is ashamed to admit that they were related to forging his mother’s checks, to support his addiction when he was actively using.

He lost his job, and was “back and forth” with the legal issues. He says his family did not want to pursue the charges because they saw he was making progress and needed to support his son, but the matter was in the hands of the bank and courts. Darryl received probation. Because of his intent to purchase drugs, his girlfriend had asked him to leave their apartment. She did not want the drugs around their small child, and Darryl totally understood.

Darryl entered a cycle of temp work; working steady for 90 days, then starting over at a new assignment. He has always found work: in warehousing/forklift, painting, drywalling, but has not found anything permanent.

This brought him to the Mission. Initially, he intended to stay for the two weeks and find employment and move on, but heard about the Christian Living and Values Program. He is now on the waiting list and will begin the next session. His goal is to provide support for his girlfriend and his son. Darryl’s girlfriend is laid off from her job, but is making ends meet with help from their families. The separation from his son has been hard on Darryl, and it motivates him to establish stability and “stop playing.” On his last visit, his son grabbed his coat and kept saying, “Daddy, park,” indicating he wanted Darryl to take him to the park to play. Darryl, whose father was an alcoholic, says he does not want his son to have a drug addict father.

He has gotten involved with a local church and is attending classes while on the waiting list.

