

Edward



Edward was born in Russia, until he was adopted at age 6 and moved to the US. He remembers nothing about his early childhood. Just one month following his adoption, his adopted father died from lung cancer. His new mother raised him and his older brother and sister, both also adopted from Russia. He says that he had a good childhood in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. In middle school, he moved to Northampton.

Edward says in middle school, his life started going “downhill” because of the crowd he hung out with. He began smoking marijuana and admits that he became disrespectful to the mother who worked so hard to raise him. “I chose my friends over my mother,” he said, looking away. She asked him to leave on his 18th birthday. Edward says that he agreed with her; that moving out was for the best.

He moved in with a friend and the friend’s father and sister. He continued drinking and did not follow the rules set for him. “I was making wrong choices,” he said, “and decided to leave. He was homeless and survived by stealing: robbing what was left in cars: dvd players, laptops, cameras, and change.

He was caught. He was attending Colonial Academy, formerly known as Second Chance, which Edward explains was a school for kids with behavioral problems. A detective came to the school to talk to him about the robberies, and Edward says he admitted his involvement. Three weeks later he was arrested and “locked up” in Northampton County Prison. He was released after four months, with the stipulation that he had to work and pay restitution to the victims. He says that he could not find work, and since he could not pay restitution, he violated his probation. He went back to jail for 14 months to complete his sentence.

He was released March 6th and moved in with his brother in Northampton. His brother was moving, however, and Edward could not be on the new lease due to his criminal record. Edward decided it would be best for him if he went into a shelter, and his brother dropped him off at the Mission’s Gateway Center. A current client told him about the Christian Living and Values Program.

He’s currently on the waiting list, and wants to really seek God during this time. He has no church background. Edward has been clean and sober for 2 years. His goals are to prove himself and reconcile with his mother. He has no real work history and needs job training as well.

