

My SOZO journey began January 21, 2015. When first admitted to this life changing program I was sick, tired, and angry. I was sporting a sling from shoulder surgery that was a result of my drinking. The staff at SOZO saw my immediate need for additional medical detox and I was placed in the hospital for the next eight days. I actually began the in-patient recovery program on January 29th.

I felt welcome and was immediately accepted just the way I was with all my character defects and negative attitudes. The staff and other clients loved me until I felt worthy of loving myself. This is a truly unique facility and program that becomes a fulfilling way of life. The way the 12 step recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous is blended with the spiritual aspect of Faith base recovery is truly remarkable. I was then quickly introduced to the support of the Village Church of Christ. Again I was greeted and accepted with love and caring. These people didn't know who I was or what I had done in the past, but loved and shared with me anyway. They only knew I was there for help and that is all that seemed to matter. The support of all of these people on a continual basis becomes something that you cherish and want to give back. Again, learning a different way of living.

The staff of SOZO is another truly unique gift. The Director, Bob O'Dowd and Assistant Director, Justin Smith are continually seeking additional ways to help people with the problem of addiction. They have initiated a ground breaking program of Relapse Prevention that fits me. We attend outside AA and CR meetings and hold meetings of our own at the SOZO facility that are open to the public. Many of these meetings are held in the evening which accommodates my Transitional Living and work schedule. There are volunteers that are in recovery that come to have meetings of AA History and Fundamentals that we call Friends of SOZO. There are also men from the Church of Christ that volunteer their time to come to the campus to lead Bible studies we call them "the Bible Dudes." All of these things together make SOZO in my book on the LEADING EDGE OF RECOVERY.

My personal story consists of many different treatment centers over a 35 year period of time. Over these years I experienced many relapses and each time the illness was worse than the time before. By being a part of the SOZO RECOVERY PROGRAM I have been able to put all of the pieces of an ongoing sobriety plan together. The main reason I believe this has happened is that this program helped me to map and proceed into a PERSONAL PLAN that fits me. I am also able to be involved with other recovering people on a daily basis and we all help each other. I think we all want to be rid of our addictions and learn how to be happy. Thanks to GOD and SOZO I have been able to experience the miracle and believe I am now part of something GREAT. I believe all of the people that make up SOZO as a whole are a gift from God.

February 1, 2016 K.F.