



Mariners Inn

445 Ledyard, Detroit, MI 48201

Phone: 313.962.9446

www.marinersinn.org

A shelter and treatment center for the homeless located in Detroit, MI

In less than two years, Mark Van Duyne went from being homeless and chemically-dependent to being sober and gainfully employed.

Mr. Van Duyne began experimenting with drugs at age fifteen. He dropped out of high school, but earned a GED at age twenty despite heavy drinking. He continued to flounder through early adulthood, abusing drugs and alcohol while he tried to build an independent life for himself. In 1992, he took some classes at a community college and discovered that he was very interested in computers. Over his career, he eventually became a network engineer and found a position with a global computer company.



Mr. Van Duyne continued to experience periods of heavy drinking, but managed to keep his housing and employment. But in 2004, his drinking finally caught up with him and he lost his job. At this point, his life began to spiral out of control. He was in and out of jail and treatment centers, and began to live on the streets. Things got worse until he was completely destitute, living in an abandoned building in Pontiac.

A mental health provider referred Mr. Van Duyne to Mariners Inn. He entered the residential treatment program in April of 2008 without hope and certain that his life was ruined. The first thing he noticed at Mariners Inn was that everyone said "hello" to him. He became very interested in the Twelve Step program. Though his mental and physical exhaustion lasted for months, he began to believe he could recover.

Mr. Van Duyne successfully completed ninety days of residential treatment and decided to continue in the Mariners Extended Residency (MER) Program. MER is a long-term residency program where men work intensively on education, employment, and gaining the skills they need to live independently.

In MER, Mr. Van Duyne continues to participate in recovery groups and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. He believes that the Twelve Step program has been critical to his continued sobriety. He has learned to pursue his goals more carefully while considering the impact of his actions on himself and others, and has learned that he cannot micromanage every aspect of his life. He has brushed up on his math skills, read many history books, and became recertified for two Cisco networking exams. He has had many opportunities to pursue his personal goals. For one project, Mariners Inn asked him to assess the organization's technology and make recommendations. Mr. Van Duyne then put together a professional assessment and recommendation package for Mariners Inn.

Dave Sampson, COO of Mariners Inn, introduced Mr. Van Duyne to an executive at a local technology company. After a review of his work, Mr. Van Duyne was offered a temporary position on a project. This led to another project, and then a contract position with the company. Mr. Van Duyne continued to be successful, and in January of 2010, he accepted a full-time position with benefits.

Mr. Van Duyne believes that God took control and gave him his life back. He has been sober for over two years, is grateful to have his career back, and is looking forward to his future. Someday, he would like to serve on the Mariners Inn Board and hopes to help others the way Mariners Inn helped him.