



Morrison's Miracles

Many of you already know that Morrison Child and Family Services does amazing work. Today we would like to share what we call "Morrison's Miracles" with you. These miracles occur daily but are difficult to discuss and subtle to recognize. We want to start sharing some of these moments with you so that you better understand the critical nature of the work we do and communicate the success of our clients. Please share Morrison's Miracles with those you know who care about children and the overall health of families in our community.

Breakthrough provides a combination of alcohol/drug abuse treatment, mental health treatment, education, competency-based skill development and mentoring in an environment which promotes a transition to a successful, clean and sober lifestyle.

Jose** entered Morrison's Breakthrough Day Treatment Program following his arrest for drug use. He answered every question with a question and was belligerent and defensive. Within moments staff knew Jose would challenge them every step of the way.

During his six months at Breakthrough, Jose worked to overcome his addiction to meth, as well as to figure out who he wanted to be in life which required self-exploration of his involvement in gang activity. Jose gradually began to open up in therapy and worked to prepare and practice statements he could use at home to excuse himself from invitations to unhealthy activities. He started talking about his feelings and responded well to concrete tasks and cognitive behavioral interventions that helped him to manage anger, frustration and anxieties. Jose obtained a sponsor at the Morrison community Narcotics Anonymous meeting and began seeing him on a weekly basis. He sought and found a wealth of support in his family, especially his older brother, a reformed gang member.

Jose progressed through Morrison's level system and grew to be one of the most valued leaders in the program. He became a young man who could master his emotional reactions. Other clients openly admired Jose and his progress.

Upon successfully completing his treatment Jose returned to his parents' home, where he started attending his senior year of school. Time previously spent roaming the streets with his gang and using meth, was now spent at a part-time job, playing video games and minding his 5-year-old sister after school. During his last family session, Jose's little sister informed staff, "Jose is nicer now!" In the spring he earned a full time position working the swing shift at a local grocery

store. He maintained this work schedule while simultaneously attending school and completing his self-selected senior project on quitting drug use.

Jose graduated from high school in June--a young man proud of his accomplishments with concrete goals for his future. He envisions a life working with cars as a mechanic. Jose is well on his way to realizing his hopes and dreams.

***Names and certain events have been changed to maintain confidentiality and to protect the children and families we serve.*