



Action Alliance Foundation

Safe Recovery Residences

Meet Amanda

At just 11 years old, Amanda began sneaking out to drink and smoke marijuana with friends growing up in South Dakota. Over the next 20 years, her substance abuse escalated to include a wide range of drugs, such as fentanyl.

During this time, Amanda married and had two children, later divorced, and eventually had another child with a boyfriend. That relationship also ended. “Sadly, I chose drugs over my children and over co-parenting them with their fathers,” she reflects honestly.

About four years ago, Amanda moved to California. However, her struggles with addiction continued, and she found herself repeatedly in and out of county jail for theft and drug-related charges. Cut off from her family, she also lost touch with her children and their fathers back in South Dakota.

Amanda’s turning point came in April 2025, following a 30-day jail sentence. With the help of her probation officer, she was admitted to Woodglen Recovery Junction, where she completed a 90-day residential treatment program. It was there that Amanda began asking herself, “What do I want out of life?” and confronting the chaos her addiction had caused over the past 20 years. “Ultimately, the program gave me the courage to move forward,” she shares.

After completing the program at Woodglen, Amanda transitioned to an Action Alliance Foundation (AAF) residence. Through her participation in both the Orange County Health Care Agency and OC Probation programs, she has been provided with a supportive, rent-free place to live for seven months, giving her time to rebuild her life and strengthen her sobriety.

Amanda began working a warehouse job while continuing to stay involved at Woodglen, where she volunteered, attended morning meditation, shared her story with newcomers, and sponsored others in recovery. “I worked on my recovery, and I also learned how to be of service,” she explains.

Her dedication did not go unnoticed. Woodglen's Program Director, Andrew, and Program Administrator (and AAF board member), Roxi, eventually approached Amanda about joining Roxi's team in a billing and quality assurance role.

Amanda began her new position on December 19, 2025. "I am so grateful for this job and am learning so much from Roxi," she says. "I am trusted, and I have integrity!"

Today, Amanda's mother and grandmother are back in her life, and she is taking meaningful steps toward reuniting with her children and their fathers after four years apart. In the meantime, she continues working on her recovery, committed to building a stable and fulfilling future.

"Action Alliance has given me structure, stability, and camaraderie with the other women in my house," Amanda says. "I am truly thankful."