

Action Alliance Foundation

Safe Recovery Residences

Meet Maggie

When Maggie was in her 40s, life was good. She was happily married, had children and grandchildren, worked in the medical field, and owned a home. She never imagined that just a few years later she would be struggling with the illness of addiction.

Initially reliant on painkillers due to an injury, Maggie's substance use quickly spiraled after her father's unexpected death. "I didn't know how to grieve," Maggie explains. "I was in denial, and nothing else mattered."

Because she worked in the medical field, Maggie was able to access non-prescription painkillers, eventually turning to Percocet purchased from a dealer. Unbeknownst to her, the Percocet was laced with fentanyl, and her addiction soon transitioned to fentanyl itself.

By the time Maggie reached her early 50s, she had lost everything - rapidly and completely. She lost her job, her home, and key family relationships.

Although her children checked in on her periodically, her siblings and mother stopped speaking to her. Maggie spent nearly two years living on the streets.

Her wake-up call came quite literally from her daughters. "I'm expecting to receive a call any day that you've passed," her older daughter told her during a brief phone conversation. "Do you want to be cremated or buried?" A short time later, her younger daughter offered to bail her out of jail - but only if she pursued recovery. Those two heartbreaking conversations prompted Maggie to pray and begin taking steps to save her life.

After completing detox at the Roc Center, Maggie qualified for Action Alliance's Orange County Health Care Agency program and was placed in an Action Alliance home in May 2023. She was soon able to secure employment in the medical field once again and later moved into a private-pay home after completing the County program. In October 2024, Maggie became a house manager for Action Alliance. She continues to work the AA program, and her family relationships have been fully restored.

When asked what advice she has for someone newly sober, Maggie says, “Let someone guide you. Work at it. It’s not easy, but the people who came before you will show you the way.”

Today, Maggie believes she is living the best chapter of her life. “I’ve learned humility and integrity, and I’ve learned how to give back,” she says. “I am eternally grateful for the life that Action Alliance has given me.”