



1 YEAR 5 MONTHS 13 DAYS

That's how long 17-year-old Sapphire has been clean and sober. And she's proud of it. She just graduated from high school.

Growing up, Sapphire had an abusive, alcoholic father, a sister who was a drug addict, and other adults and guardians who had encouraged her to begin abusing drugs and alcohol from the young age of seven. During her teenage years, Sapphire began to act out. The next step was predictable - jail. After being charged with assault, shoplifting, and being beyond the control of her school, Sapphire realized she was just faking her way through recovery programs and finally got serious. Sapphire remembers hitting rock bottom. "Your life is too short to mess it up," she says she realized. Sapphire decided to make a change.

Now enrolled in our Independent Living Program, Sapphire is receiving the help she needs to support herself as she "sets her mind to it" in her recovery and building a life of her own. Sapphire says that the help she receives from the Independent Living Program is teaching her how to be independent so she can have a healthy productive life as an adult, away from the influences that held her back in the past. She is thankful for the way the Independent Living Program provides her with a safe apartment, teaches her living skills like cooking and budgeting, has helped her obtain a new job, and supports her as she prepares to work her way through college. Staff at KYUMH are also helping Sapphire realize a new dream - writing her story. She hopes to publish it someday, a fictionalized story based on all that she went through over the years.

Sapphire is looking forward to graduating college now. On the other side of darker days, she has decided to study criminal justice, hoping to become a probation officer someday, helping other kids like her to understand that a better life is possible.

Without your support, kids like Sapphire wouldn't be able to bounce back. We need your help! Won't you support our back-to-school efforts, helping youth finish strong and build a brighter future for themselves?



LEARNING *to Dream* AGAIN

Psalm 68:5-6a,19

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families. Blessed be the Lord who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.