***I have been in and out of prison for the last fifteen years….***

***I just completed parole and have been clean for the longest point in over ten years.***

My name is Tammy, I’m in my forties, and have led a very different kind of life. I remember being young and wondering if everyone had a life like mine, I guess I just thought it was normal. My siblings and I endured all kinds of abuse, from physical and emotional to sexual. Learning to steal at a young age, to feed my other sisters and brother. I left home at sixteen and have never been back.

The lifestyle continued even though I managed to raise my boys without the effects that I endured. They are both well-adjusted and are leading normal productive lives. However at the end of my marriage addiction kicked in full force. I have been in and out of prison for the last fifteen years. During my last incarceration I was approached by circles of support, it was a new program in Linn County and my parole officer wanted me to participate in it. I did and had the blessing of working with Diane Wurzer, Mary Knight & David Krob.

They have shown me the meaning of strength and faith. Even though they have suffered loss and pain they chose a different path. They have given me the insight and courage to now be able to do the same. Maybe I was not dealt a fair start, but I can choose the direction of my life from this point on.

Things are not easy, however I have my own apartment for the first time in eight years, I just completed parole and have been clean for the longest point in over ten years. I have been laid off and currently looking for a job, but with their support and belief in me I know things will work out. Their time compassion and belief in me is what keeps me believing in this.

I love my apartment in Solon, and the people in my life. I am so grateful for their continuing love and support.

***I can only hope that others in***

***my position will have the good fortune to meet and be inspired by people like this, that I never***