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## Jon Hall: 'Recovery is possible'

In 2014, life wasn't so great for Army veteran Jon Hall. After a few years out of the National Guard, he found himself back into his old habits before he served. He was involved in drugs and getting in trouble with the law.

That same year, while at a rehab facility, he met James Miller. As one of the peer mentors for HVAF, James was telling Jon about all of the services the organization provides for veterans.

For a few months, Jon spent time in one of our transitional houses, making improvements to his life while seeking our services. In 2015, Jon decided to come back to HVAF to participate in REST, a former HVAF program that helps drug users follow the road to recovery.\*

Jon said he made lasting relationships at HVAF, as he spent lots of time with HVAF employees— including, James, peer mentor Fred Young and Elayne Lewis.

The relationship manager now, Elayne was the cook for the REST program. Jon said she even arranged for him to be baptized at her church.

"Everybody there was just helpful and kind and caring. They truly cared about what they were doing and the people there," Jon said. "I had never experienced that and hadn't been in a place like that before."

Fast forward two and a half years later, Jon has regained custody of his 10-year-old son and is reunited with his children who were estranged from him before.

Now living in Lafayette, Jon works at Subaru. He said they were open to accepting his past and hiring him into a full-time position.

"My life is awesome, it really is. I feel like I'm truly blessed," Jon said. "I'm actually responsible and productive, probably for the first time in my life."

Although he relapsed a few more times after the REST program, Jon said HVAF helped him to learn recovery is possible.

"I think ultimately it's something you have to figure out on your own and you have to be ready but you have to *want* to be ready, too," Jon said. "And the information, the seeds that were planted there in my life, were eventually what led me to being able to turn my life around."



Jon Hall (back right, in white shirt) participated in the REST program for several months. Although he relapsed a few times after, he said HVAF is what led him to full recovery.

## HVAF stars in ISAE awards night

The Indiana Society of Association Executives helped HVAF in a huge way at the end of 2017.

For the past 16 years, ISAE has hosted the STAR Awards— an event that celebrates its accomplishments and the people who make that possible. As they do every year, they choose a charity to raise money for at the event.

HVAF was very blessed to be the charity of choice at their December 2017 awards night. ISAE was able to raise \$5,327.45 and presented the check to HVAF last week.



WTHR's Anne Marie Tiernon was this year's STAR Awards Emcee.

"We are deeply grateful the Indiana Society of Association Executives (ISAE) selected HVAF as the beneficiary of their 2018 STAR Awards fundraiser," HVAF CEO and President Brian Copes said. "There are literally thousands of non-profit choices and we're glad you picked us. Besides the direct financial support, the ISAE provided a unique stage from which to tell the HVAF story and expose our brand to the ISAE members and their many and varied networks."



## HVAF employees receive LCSW

As a way to further themselves in the social work field, HVAF case managers Mark Lykins and Brian Andree have recently earned the Licensed Clinical Social Worker title.

Both social workers received their master's degree in social work, obtained their LSW licensure through an exam and then went through two years of supervision at HVAF before taking the LCSW exam.

"Being an LCSW means you can start your own practice and you are able to bill insurance companies," Brian said. "It also makes you more marketable because it shows you have experience in the field of social work."

Brian, a clinical coordinator at HVAF's scattered sites, passed the LCSW exam last December.

"To a social worker, getting the LCSW is pretty much one of the biggest accomplishments they can obtain in their career. It takes years of study, testing and supervision to achieve licensure," Brian said.

Mark, who is the coordinator for HVAF's SSVF program, earned his LCSW last May.



Brian Andree (left) and Mark Lykins

"Once you've obtain an LCSW there's a certain competence level that is at least implied. A lot of the issues that our clients are facing are rooted in a combination of addiction, mental health, and systemic barriers," Mark said. "The LCSW measures your ability to work within that realm. It doesn't mean you have to have an LCSW to do what we do, but it helps."

## Indiana Podiatry Group rocks our socks!

For the third year in a row, the Indiana Podiatry Group has held a sock drive for HVAF. This year, they collected **3,000+ pairs of socks!**



IPG treats all kinds of feet.

They have eight medical offices and two pediatric shoe stores in Central Indiana.

"We have had an enjoyable, fulfilling experience each time we have presented socks and other items to HVAF which is why this organization is our first choice," Nicole Thompson, administrative & marketing assistant, said.



This donation is especially important for this time of year with the freezing temperatures.

"We are so appreciative of the 3,000 pairs of socks donated by the Indiana Podiatry Group," Emmy Hildebrand, VP Strategic Initiatives & Public Policy, and HVAF Support Center leader, said. "They will help ensure veterans visiting our clothing and food pantries receive new, clean pairs of socks."

## Outreach Shout out!

Thanks to those who helped out at HVAF in January!

Do you have a group that would like to help in our food, clothing and hygiene pantries? Call 317-951-0688 for more info!

## Connect with us!

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

We are also on Instagram! Follow us @HVAFofIndiana



## HVAF Needs:

- ~Peanut butter & jelly
- ~Granola bars
- ~Rice-a-roni
- ~Hamburger Helper
- ~Spaghetti
- ~Pasta sides
- ~Dry beans
- ~Tuna

Drop off your donations to HVAF Headquarters today!

## Pepper Construction



Ivy Tech



Fifth Third Bank