

Hello,

My name is Justice Donald. I am a former resident of Jenna's Promise in Johnson, VT. I am here today to tell you all a little bit of my story. My addiction began back in 2019. I had a lung collapse, and I was prescribed pain killers, of which I quickly got addicted to. The pills then rapidly progressed into fentanyl and crack cocaine. When I started using those two drugs, my life spiralled out of control very fast. I found myself going in and out of jail constantly. But, the problem there was that jail is absolutely no help for an addict, at least not this addict. I felt and still do strongly feel as though that jail is just a pause button on addiction. The last time that I was in jail, the central living unit supervisor, Ruthie, who had seen me come in and out of that jail for over two and a half years, stepped in and told me that I was going to Jenna's Promise, and that she already had an interview set up for me. At the time, I thought, "yea, this will just be another place that I just try and fail at". But, boy was I wrong. Jenna's Promise didn't save me, like I thought they did. They gave me the tools, support, and accountability that I so desperately needed. During my time at Jenna's, I completed 12 weeks of IOP, I attended Health and Wellness, where I learned to take care of my body again, I engaged in the Workforce Development program, where I was able to work at the second hand store they own, I relearned how to write my resume, I learned major coping skills, amongst many other impeccable skills I would need in my day to day life, both inside and out of Jenna's. Before coming to Jenna's, I had lost my son due to my addiction. Luckily, my mom was able to take my son for me. But, Jenna's helped me to take parenting classes, to regain my parental instincts, and recreate the bond I once had with my child. I truly cannot put into words all of the incredible things that Jenna's has done for me. I'm originally from Barre, but after on ramping from Jenna's, I got an apartment just a quarter of a mile up the street from them, and have moved my mom and my son out here with me as well. I'm currently still working at Copley Hospital, where Jenna's helped me to get a job. I'm beyond thankful everyday for Ruthie stepping in and having me go to Jenna's. I know there is other recovery communities in VT, but I truly believe that Jenna's was just the one for me, and I know it will continue to be for many other women to come. Jenna's may have been the perfect fit for myself, but, with only one residence, they

are only able to help so many women at a time. Jail costs \$100,000 per year to house an inmate, Jenna's Promise costs \$33,000 per year to actually support an addict in their road to recovery. I ask for your help to please support Jenna's Promise, and to please support all other recovery residences, as they truly make a huge difference for people like me!