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**NAME:** Joshua Maple

**ORGANIZATION:** Vermont Foundation of Recovery and Recovery Partners of Vermont

**LOCATION:** Essex Junction, VT

Hello, my name is Joshua Maple, and I am a current member and house coordinator for Vermont Foundation of Recovery, managing two of the Men's Recovery Houses, in Essex Junction, VT. I just want to thank the committee for their vital work. I am here today to ask the committee to support Recovery Partners of Vermont's FY26 funding requests.

I became addicted to drugs and alcohol, when I reached high school, because I loved the way they made me feel. I always wanted to be one of the cool kids and I felt like drugs and alcohol helped me accomplish that. Things took a turn when I asked to leave my parents' house, because I started to get very disrespectful towards them, and I stopped listening to them, and I found myself out on the streets, basically just using and surviving every day.

Vermont Foundation of Recovery was not the first Recovery Home that I have received help from. But it has helped me out in many of the same ways, probably even more. VFOR provided me with the same tools to stay clean and find a different way of life.

Some things that VFOR does that have helped me along my journey were. They provided a safe and sober living environment, where I could recreate my life. The living environment, the structure, the daily living requirements that needed to be fulfilled, the community around me, PLUS, my own personal willingness and commitment I made to getting sober, all helped me out.

VFOR is a great place for anyone who's serious about recovering, to come and live along their journey. As I stated above, the whole atmosphere of the home and the structure it provides pushes the individual to go out, be productive, and to get comfortable, being uncomfortable. Without being pushed to do the things I didn't want to do, I'm not sure where I would be today.

Also, VFOR has certain requirements a member must be doing to fulfill their membership. These things were also a very important part of my recovery process. They included things like washing your dishes and cleaning up after yourself, taking all your medications as prescribed, putting in 20 hours a week, either doing work, volunteering or education. And going to a certain amount of recovery-based meetings per week, participating in a Weekly Recovery Commitment, and building a relationship with a Recovery Mentor.

Lastly, the recovery I received was rooted in community connections. I would have to say there were three major areas that were part of my recovery. One, would be living in a recovery home. Two, being able to have friends and people who liked me and also liked being around me, who spent their time with me, helped me in many ways, through the recovery process. And three, there was The Turning Point Center in Burlington, where I used to go almost daily. Where I had a whole other set of community allies to hang out with, spend time together, and not use substances. Just being able to show up somewhere in early recovery, and today, getting recognized by the people around me, just makes me feel like I'm wanted. They make this whole recovery process much easier.



The connection I've received from my community and my VFOR recovery home, plus the Turning Point Center, was able to lift me up, and provide me with the tools necessary to really take charge and do something differently in my life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support Recovery Partners of Vermont's FY26 funding requests to ensure that certified recovery residences can continue providing safe, stable, and supportive housing for individuals in recovery. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joshua Maple

On behalf of Recovery Partners of Vermont

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