

Crossing the Line

Life was good for Jon Price, a bright, articulate college-educated guy. In three and half years, Jon earned a B.A. in Economics and a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Santa Clara. After college, he excelled in a career in sales, with his easy-going, witty personality.

Drinking was simply a part of the job; he was jovial and happy when he drank and the clients loved him. He quickly moved up the ranks selling software to government agencies. Life was good. Jon had a great job, a wife, two boys, and a nice home in New Milford, Connecticut - until 2009.

The previous year, the housing bubble burst and triggered the economic meltdown. Jon found himself out of a job. "I thought finding another job would be no problem, but as time went on and nothing came through, the stress began wearing on me," he said, and he began drinking to deal with it.



Jon was always able to drink.
A lot. It wasn't a problem.
Until it was.

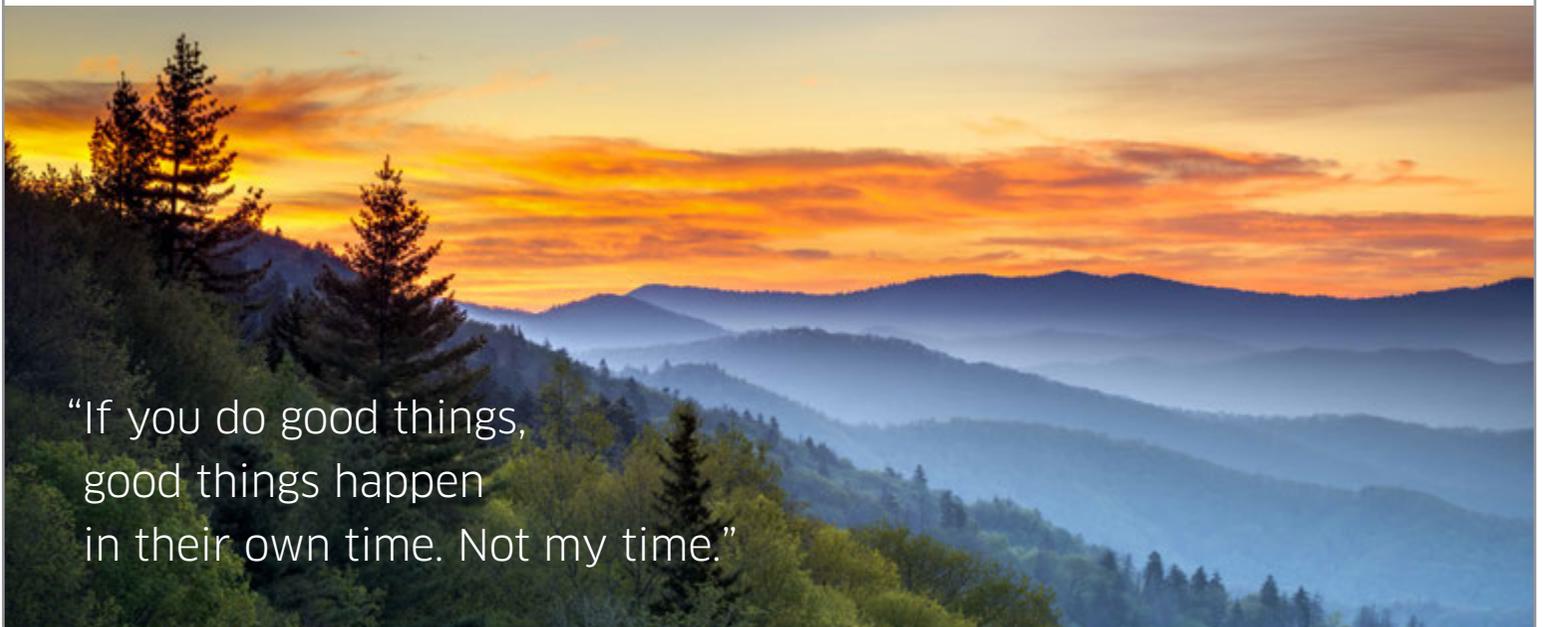
Jon recalled a five-month period in 2009 when he drank every day. "That's when I crossed that line and went from wanting to drink to needing to drink." He was no longer in control of his drinking; the disease of addiction had taken hold. Over the next three years, as his alcoholism progressed, Jon lost everything he had worked so hard to build. After his home was foreclosed, and his wife left him and moved to Vermont with their boys, Jon joined the ranks of homeless people living in downtown Danbury.

The next three years were filled with constant worry about his safety, food, money, shelter - and figuring out where he would get his next drink. He made several attempts to get sober and went through MCCA's detox and the 28-day residential program at McDonough House twice. However, he readily admits that his efforts were more to appease his family.

In 2013, several events occurred that motivated Jon to take another stab at getting sober, one being the loss of family support. "It wasn't until my youngest brother cut me off from his life that I really started to think seriously about getting sober," he said. Up until that point, Jon had always been able to guilt his brother into giving him money or help him out. That same year, while still living as a homeless person in downtown Danbury, Jon was crossing Main Street in front of the library when he was hit by a car. "My head went through this guy's windshield and my leg was broken." The man got out of his car and began yelling at Jon, who was lying in the crosswalk with a gash in his head and fractured leg. The police officer, who arrived on the scene, stepped in and informed the driver that he was in the wrong, he had hit a person.

On day two of Jon's detox, Kevin, who had been his counselor during his previous two stays, said, "Okay Jon, what do you want to do next." Jon was what they call a 'Frequent Flyer' - a chronic addict who goes in and out of the emergency department and treatment multiple times. Kevin asked him, "How serious are you? Are you serious enough to cut your hair?" Jon was ready; his long tangle of hair came off and he was admitted to McDonough House for the third time. This time he was committed to getting as much out of the program as possible.

As soon as he finished the 28-day program at MCCA, Jon went straight to Jericho, a ministry dedicated to serving the at-risk community of Danbury. He was determined to stay on the straight and narrow and get a job. "Pastor Jim from Jericho was my saving grace," Jon said. Within six months he had a job, was



"If you do good things,
good things happen
in their own time. Not my time."

Jon's leg was still mending and he needed a cane to help him walk. One day, another homeless person grabbed the cane and began beating Jon with it. "That was it! I'd had enough," Jon said. He called MCCA for a week and finally got into detox. When he was admitted, he recalls happily skipping up the hill from Mill Plain Road to MCCA with his broken leg on October 19, 2013. "I had a game plan," he said. "I knew this had to be my last drink."

living at Sunrise Terrace, MCCA's affordable townhouse units for people in the early stages of recovery, and participating in Relapse Prevention groups at MCCA.

Today Jon has a little over three years of sobriety on his side, works in the planning department for a national retail chain, and always tries to look on the bright side of life. **"I'm Mr. Positive. I try to look at the best angle on anything."**