

# David

## OPEN ARMS MEN'S SHELTER AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CLIENT

**My childhood was filled with trauma and depression, and it led me down a bad path in life.** I was arrested for the first time at the age of sixteen, and even after graduating with an associate's degree from a community college, I couldn't get jobs that paid enough to survive. I continued to be depressed. To cope, I was always looking for the easy way. I set myself back by making the wrong choices.



**When I was released on parole early in 2021, I was determined to change my life for the better. With nowhere to go, I ended up at Open Arms Men's Shelter.** That was the best thing that could have happened. The employment staff helped me write my resume and cover letter, and they helped me practice answering interview questions.

Thankfully I was able to get a full time job in environmental services at a local hospital. I've already received positive feedback from my supervisor, and I can get a lot of overtime.

It's hard to dream every day when everything around you is so negative. **Open Arms is not like other shelters. They make the effort to get to know you and understand that you may need help in other ways. Their whole focus is to help you learn how to set yourself up for success.**

