

# Shannon's Interview with Michael "Smokey" Cain

## *Strength from his Struggle*

### SL: What was your childhood like?

MC: I grew in Charlestown with two brothers, I'm the middle child. We were raised in a single-family home. We hung out on the street corners and got in to trouble from time to time, but came from a loving family.

### SL: When did you start using?

MC: I started using marijuana in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It quickly progressed to pills and alcohol. I would steal prescription pills and the ones I didn't use, I would sell.

### SL: What are some of your most challenging experiences as a person struggling with substance use?

MC: Some of my most challenging experiences have been struggling with negative and dishonest thoughts about my sobriety. Impulsivity and manipulation, that I put myself through, has also been very challenging.

### SL: Describe your experiences with the Charlestown Drug Court:

MC: Having nearly 7 years in recovery, I am able to work alongside the Charlestown Coalition and the Charlestown Division of the Boston Municipal Court as part of the specialized drug court session. My personal experience has been very positive.

### SL: Overall, how are you doing now?

MC: Good. I am grateful that being in recovery has allowed me to use my musical gifts as a DJ to help serve the communities of Boston.

