

Shannon's Interview with Steven Considine

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came into the picture, like cocaine and angel dust. With my addictive personality, I enjoyed those drugs as well. Then as the years went on, opiates and crack cocaine became my drugs of choice.

SL: Can you describe your path towards recovery?

SC: I tried getting clean many times and failed miserably because deep down inside I didn't want to stay clean because I didn't think I had a problem. I went to so many detoxes and halfway houses and other programs all around the state and it didn't work because I brought ME everywhere, I went. But, this last time I went to the Charlestown Recovery House and managed to graduate by doing the right thing and connecting with the right people.

SL: What has helped you maintain your recovery?

SC: Getting sober in Charlestown where I grew up, was very difficult for me. Especially at my age, because I saw everyone else my age drinking, but they can do it and live a normal life, unlike me. I finally realized that I can't drink and do drugs in safety and I'm finally ok with that because I know if I pick up it could be my last time. So, I keep that up front with myself today so I can live a good life and be a better friend, brother and a better son to my mother.

SL: What advice would you give to someone in early recovery?

SC: I would tell them to just fall back and focus on themselves and take it one day at a time. Even though that sounds cliché, that's what I had to do because I always expected everything to fall into place fast and get everything back together quick. But it takes time and is well worth it.

SL: Please describe your childhood?

SC: My parents split up when I was five years old due to my father's alcoholism. But my childhood was very good. Growing up, my mother did a great job. I definitely didn't make it easy for her though.

SL: How and when did addiction begin manifesting, at what age?

SC: I started smoking weed at 11 years old and drinking.. Not too long after that did it progress.

SL: How did your addiction progress from there?

SC: I obviously enjoyed using because I was smoking weed every day and drinking on the weekends even at a very young age. And that is not normal. As I got a little older, other drug