



### **Nick's Place, Inc.** **Winter 2002 Update**

This February 10 marked 5 years since we lost Nick to the disease of addiction. It has been the longest and shortest five years of my life. To honor him and his contribution, we commemorated the day at Nick's Place with our residents and their families. It was the first time in any formal way that I told Nick's story and the story of our family's battle with this disease.

Afterward, the family members expressed their gratitude for what Nick's Place is doing for the recovery of their sons. One mother told me she didn't know what to do when her son was about to be released from treatment with no place to go. When he interviewed with us, we realized he didn't have enough time in treatment (because his insurance wouldn't pay for anymore time...a whole other story that happens all the time) so Melvin our house manager, picked up the phone and found him a state treatment program. He completed that successfully and he's one of our newest current residents.

Another mom hugged me and thanked me over and over again for giving Josh a chance. Josh has been clean and sober for eight months. Six of those months have been with us!

Right before Christmas we sent JJ (Joel) home with his parents and he is currently enrolled in college, studying accounting. His mom wrote us a letter that said, in part.

*"I saw a marked improvement in Joel's dedication to his recovery. He also seemed to have grown emotionally and became more caring. Joel particularly liked the fact that he was living with a group of young men that were near his age. He could relate to them; having many of the same problems and concerns. They looked after each other; they were a team."*

One of our first residents, Bruce, celebrated one-year clean and sober on January 8. He invited Barry and me to the N/A meeting where he received his one-year acknowledgement. It was an important and proud moment for Bruce (and for us). He worked hard when he was with us and is deserving of a clean and sober life. I am grateful that Nick's Place played an important role for him. Here's an excerpt from a letter we received from Bruce.

*"I would like to thank you for a new beginning to my recovery. My stay in Nick's Place as very important. When I left treatment my living situation was very uncertain. I was told about how important it is to be living in a recovery atmosphere. I found that atmosphere at Nick's Place. It was important for me to re-learn new coping and living skills and re-establish my life. To this day I will be forever grateful for the time I had spent at Nick's Place."*

You know, it just doesn't get much better than that! When we started Nick's Place, we thought about the type of environment we would want Nick to live in. We thought about what it would have taken to encourage him to stick with recovery. We believe we have created the environment we envisioned; one that is supportive, structured and caring.

We are blessed to have these accomplishments to report to our friends and supporters. The attached acknowledgement is our way of saying a global thank you to everyone who believes in what we are doing and has helped us along the way. We are planning to have an open house this Spring, so I'll let you know when we have the date. Certainly, in the meantime, please feel free to give me a call if you'd like to come for a visit.