

Jim Meiser Success Story

When Jim Meiser was referred by a fellow agency to the VETS (Veterans Emergency and Transition Shelter) program at the Salvation Army to say the least he was a skeptic. He knew he couldn't sing or play a musical instrument. He didn't want to ring bells in front of the mall. He was not a Bible thumper either. So the referral to Harbor Light Mission was met with some skepticism. But, he had just been released from jail and he was cold, hungry and sick and he needed to break his drug habit.

To his surprise the first directive to him by his case manager at the Salvation Army was to go to bed and get well. He was told "Take it easy." But in the back of his mind he was waiting for the other shoe to fall, the indoctrination. And he kept waiting. The case manager at the VETS program kept coming alongside and just helping him. He got a room, food, clothes and a big dose of encouragement.

Jim completed drug rehabilitation through the Veterans SATP program, and recovered physically. He completed a program to assist him in transitioning into the community after serving time in jail. After less than 9 months Jim graduated from the Salvation Army, VETS program clean and sober into his own apartment.

Jim stated in a letter to his case manager about his time in the Salvation Army, "I believe that if all the armies of the world were like yours, the world would be a better place. Yours is an army that fires bullets of hope, grenades of compassion and an atomic burst of love.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome and for the hope you gave me in my recovery. Without your help, my success would not have happened."