



Happy Mother's Day

I am so grateful to be a mother in the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. I thank God for all of the women and the single parent men whom has crossed my path in one way or another and have shared their personal experience, strength, and hope with me on parenting. I needed to hear that there was a better way to be a parent because the only experience I had was the way my parents raised me and Lord knows that it was not pretty. Both of my parents were dysfunctional alcoholics who were both verbally and physically abusive. I made a promise to myself that I would not treat my kids the way my parents treated me.

My mother taught me about justice and told me that one day you will have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you. My mother also taught me about wisdom because she told me that when I get to be her age, I would understand. And, oh my God—it was all I could say when my son, now a teenager, began to rebel against me. My cute and adorable little baby boy didn't want mommy to think for him or make decisions for him anymore. He has been arrested three times, his grades were no longer A's and B's and he has been experimenting with marijuana at the age of thirteen.

No matter how much I cussed and screamed at him, all I could think of is that my mother had put a curse on me and I felt like a failure as a mother. I made my own life unmanageable by trying to clean up his mess so that I can fix my own conscious. And now, oh my God—is all I can say about my cute adorable baby girl is that she now acts just like me when it comes to being sassy at the mouth, being very stubborn and always trying to get the last word. I thank God for Narcotics Anonymous truly being a blessing in disguise. If I had not worked the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, go to meetings and share about life on life terms and asked for

help, I honestly don't believe that my kids would be alive or in my life.

The Spiritual Principles that I gained from the program early on in my recovery has helped me to handle problem situations with integrity. This process over the years has allowed me to spend less time on the problem and more time with constantly showing both of my kids unconditional love without labeling myself as a failure and to recognize that their

mistakes are theirs and that both of my kids will have to go through their process in life as they grow up. My mother was right about my kids being like me but the Serenity Prayer gives me hope and wisdom to know the difference that my kids' mistakes are theirs and it has nothing to do with my parenting.

If you are a mother or a single parent in recovery, get a sponsor to help you work the steps, go to meetings and talk about your problems so that you can get help. Most importantly, apply it to your everyday life because it works if you work it. Today, my son is almost sixteen and he has somewhat come to his senses and doing the right thing

because he now knows that his actions brings consequences. I know that he doesn't like staying at the "juvie" center and he knows that mommy won't run down there to bail him out. My precious daughter tries to test the waters with me but all I have to do is give her the "look" and she gets the message. Thanks NA for my life beyond my wildest dreams!

—T.W. 09/20/93



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Its Just My Nature

A few weeks ago, we had a cold front. I know that for my plants to survive I had to cover them up. It was a task I kept putting off and one morning I got up with plans to throw them away. I told myself these plants now have frost bite and they are no longer any good. But before I did, I had the idea to prune them first to see if there's any hope. In doing this I had a spiritual experience.

I did something the night before that was not okay spiritually for me. When I do such things, I become afraid my Higher Power will throw me away. That, as an addict,

I am no good. Yet God still leaves the life in me— that He will use the 12 Steps and its principles to prune me.

I have a cat that at times gets away from me and begins to eat a nearby pineapple plant. Calmly, I get the water gun and squirt him. He runs away from this but will again return to the thatsame pineapple plant. As would a loving parent, I just

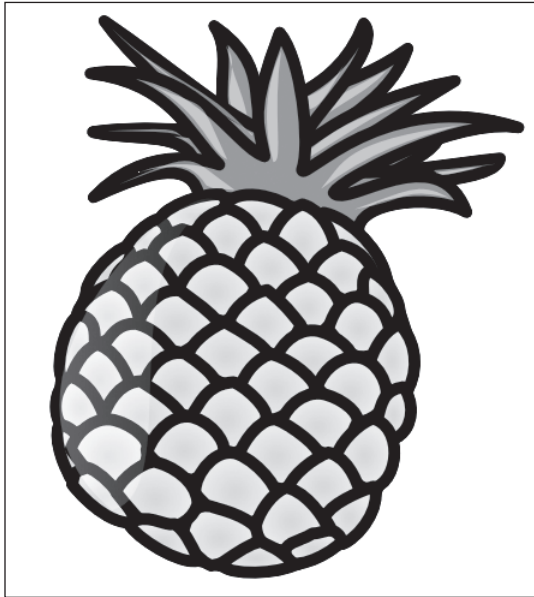
continue to repeat squirting him.

Yet again, my Higher Power illustrates His willingness to understand and offer me forgiveness. He knows I am addict. It's in my nature to

run and do things that are not conducive to me spiritually. He patiently squirts me with that uncomfortable feeling. By nature my cat is feral cat and I am, by nature, an addict. My Higher Power by nature is loving and kind. Always willing to prune away the sickness through sponsorship, spiritual principles, meetings and the application of the 12 Steps.

It's amazing—this morning felt hopeless and discouraged. But now, I'm sitting at my desk writing this very article while listening to the waterfall outside my window and wonderfully bemused and grateful. Well, I have to sign off. My cat is, once again, following his nature.

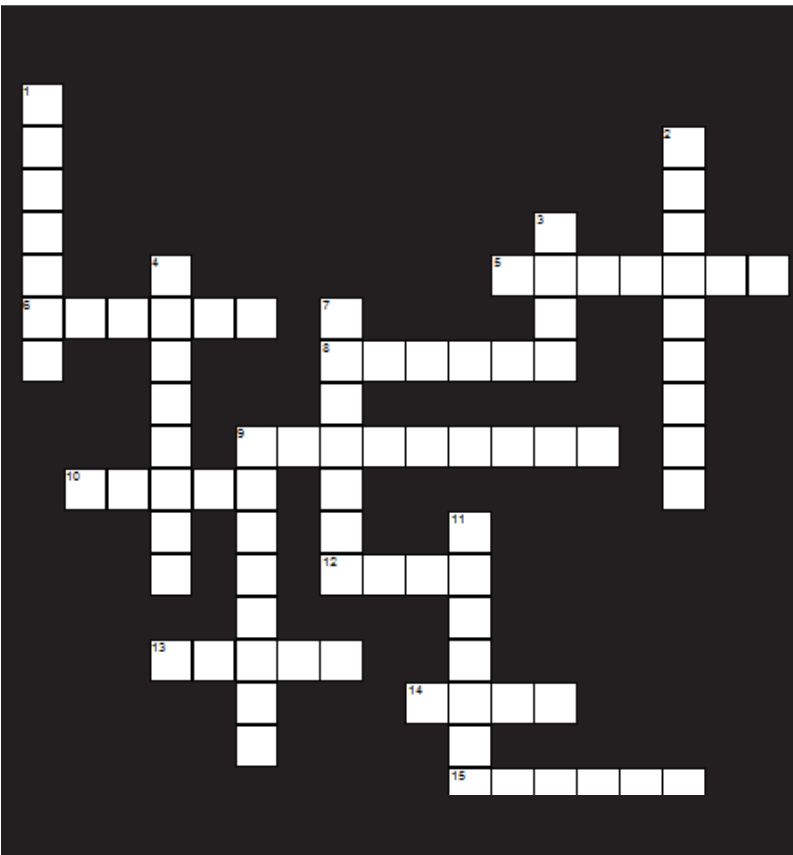
—Ira M.



Funcoast CROSSWORD

Step 2

“We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity”



Across

5. We viewed the world around us as a ___ environment.
6. The 1st Step has left a ___ in our lives.
8. ___ is inevitable when we make the effort to work the steps.
9. Our humility and open-mindedness make us ___.
10. Our hope turns to ___ as our lives improve.
12. Practicing the principle of trust may require overcoming a sense of ___.
13. When we're new in the program, being restored to sanity probably means not ___.
14. We feel the power of the group and this helps us start to ___.
15. ___ often means that we don't act on our first impulse.

Down

1. The point is that we open our minds to ___.
2. We no longer have to struggle to keep to keep our ___ a secret.
3. When we realized that other addicts were staying clean, most of us first experienced ___.
4. The principle of ___ springs from our acknowledgement that there is a Power greater than ourselves.
7. One of the suggestions that has worked for many of us is to “___ ___ ___”
9. It's a tremendous struggle for most of us to step relying on our own ___.
11. “We came to believe” implies a ___.

(Answers on last page)



Tampa Funcoast Anniversaries

A New Way

Art B 5/12/1997
Bill A 5/27/2008

Brandon At Noon

Doug Z 5/10/1998
Waylon M 5/23/1998
Annie F 5/2/2004
Deborah M 5/4/2004
Alice P 5/3/2009
Brain G 5/8/2009
Jason B 5/12/2009
Tim M 6/4/2009
Dennis M 6/8/2009

Daily Recovery

Joan W 6/27/2004
Malinda T 5/8/2005
Lisa I 5/1/2007
Kurt W 5/22/2009
Roy T 6/3/2010

Emergency Room

Russ N 6/23/2003
Andy S 5/22/2008
Shawn V 5/8/2009
Shawn V 5/8/2009
Lisaann P 5/15/2010
Lisaann P 5/15/2010
Dmarco H 6/15/2010

Free To Be Me

Adam S 5/2/1998
Brian D 6/29/2002
Jorge R 5/2/2005
Dean R 6/6/2005
David S 6/15/2005

Grow Or Go

Tres S 6/1/1981
George H 5/2/1987
Dave W 5/7/1988
Kirk K 6/14/1988
Ben S 6/20/1990
Robert A 6/8/2004
Deavon B 6/24/2007
Andy C 6/7/2008
Lauren C 6/9/2008

Jenice P 6/24/2008
Don C 6/27/2008
Christine A 6/15/2009

Happy Hour

Jay W 5/1/2006

High Lie

Pete M 5/2/1995
Joe C 6/13/2007
Mike R 6/6/2008
Ashley A 6/6/2009
Dave W 6/19/2009
Chris H 5/10/2010
Pete G 5/26/2010
Jennifer C 6/20/2010

Hope In Recovery

Malinda T 5/8/2005

In The Middle

Dave B 5/11/2007
Roger A 5/6/2006

Keep The Faith I & II

Roger A 5/6/2006

La Ultima Parada

Doris 5/9/2005

Life On Life's Terms

Doug Z 5/10/1998
Waylon M 5/23/1998

NA 180

Carole K 5/20/1986

NA Speaker Meeting

Steve C 6/10/1995
Cliff C 6/19/1996

NAIL

Mike M 6/23/1988
Lisa B 5/9/2009
Eloise B 5/4/2010

Never Too Young To Recover

Shawn B 6/6/2006

New Beginnings

Ellen M 6/9/2001

New Bite Of Serenity

Joe F 5/5/1992
Wade 5/1/2010
Jewel S 6/15/2010

Quest For Serenity

Aida S 5/6/1995
David S 5/11/2009

Radical Recovery

Carlos N 5/23/1991
Deb E 5/20/2010

Recovery Central

Deborah L 5/2/2006

Recovery In Riverview

Anne D 6/17/2010

Renegade Recovery

Giovannii 6/27/2009

Rise For Recovery

Malinda T 5/8/2005

Saturday Night Live

Adam S 5/2/1998

Stepping Up

Michael J 5/1/1999

Sunday Serenity

George B 5/4/2001
Heather M 5/21/2006

Sunset At Sunrise

Pascal P 5/14/2009
Mark P 5/26/2009

Sunset Solutions

Frank V 6/21/1981
Carole K 5/20/1986
Craig K 6/14/1989

The Breakfast Club

Joe P 5/29/1996

The Ties That Bind Us

Brett P 6/27/2001

Ashli C 6/4/2009
Lee H 6/26/2009

Together We Can

Richard W 6/18/1997
Lenora M 6/10/2002

Triple M

Mingo A 6/13/1990

Uptown Group

Peter W 5/10/2002

War Is Over

Matt P 5/25/2005
Lee C 5/25/2005
Dee Dee H 5/20/2009
Kurt W 5/22/2009
Meghan A 5/12/2010
Ron C 6/17/2010
Morgan B 6/26/2010

Women Of Serenity

Sheila P 6/16/1999

Women Stand United

Susan Y 5/21/2000
Vikki T 6/23/2000

Womens Hope

Emily C 5/14/1988
Theresa K 6/1/2006
Maria P 6/9/2007
Melissa S 6/16/2007
Leslie S 5/21/2005
Christina P 6/6/2005
Kim N 5/19/2010

Corrections War Is Over

Hope L 4/10/2006
Joe V 4/10/2006
Julie C 4/11/2007
Jerry B 4/17/2010
Phil A 4/13/2009
Stephanie M 4/15/2003
RJ K 4/27/2007
Bryan M 4/30/2007



Poetry & Thoughts

Dear Funcoast,

On behalf of the How It Works home group, we say thanks to all who came out to our May 7th Car Wash. A special shout out to Virginia who has always been of service to our home group and to Mingo who might use greasy rags on the windows but still ya' got a heart of gold.

-Thanks!

Sponsorship for newcomers is also the responsibility of the group. It is implied and informal in its approach, but is the heart of the N.A. way of recovery from addiction—one addict helping another

—Basic Text p. 55

Join Us!



Poster Hanging Day

**® Saturday
May 21st, 2011
8:30am**

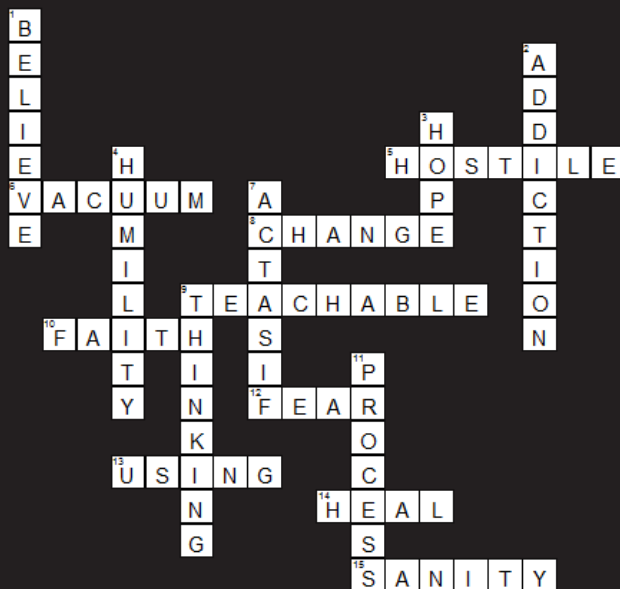
**In Loving Service to
Narcotics
Anonymous**

Details: Meet us at John Calvin Presbyterian Church between 8:30 am and 9:00 am. Refreshments will be provided.

For more info: Steve C. (813) 629-3532 or Rick S. (813) 966-1402

My life is my message.

—Mahatma Gandhi



The Tampa Funcoast Area of Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter Committee welcomes your comments, ideas, announcements, and articles. Your submissions must adhere to the spiritual principles of The 12 Traditions of NA and cannot be copyrighted material from 3rd party persons or publications. Submissions may be subject to editing in order to adhere to the spiritual principles of The 12 Traditions of NA and/or the space constraints or the group conscience of the Clean Times Newsletter Committee. Your submission might be reprinted or quoted in other NA newsletters and/or related media throughout the NA Fellowship worldwide. Submissions are of the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Tampa Funcoast Area Of NA or Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

