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I wish I could say all my addictions stopped there, but I rationalized that it was still OK to smoke pot. A friend came over after she completed treatment. She wanted to know how we were staying sober on our own. She thought she was the "only sober dyke in town." Although she didn't like recovery programs, somehow she knew they were the answer for her. She took us to meetings, even though we were sometimes stoned. I smoked my last joint on December 15, 1978. I came to believe that if I continued I would be drinking and doing everything else again. The feelings of being alone and in convulsions were something I never wanted to relive.

I didn't have money to go to treatment, so I borrowed enough to return to school. I had to know more about the disease of addiction which had nearly cost my life. It was at Portland State University that I finally finished my bachelor of arts degree, after a total of 15 years of intermittent study!

In 1980 I began working in some of the battered women's shelters, doing alcohol and drug counseling groups. At this time the sexual minority clean and sober community was growing. A group of us were having difficulty finding a safe space to hold meetings. We wanted a place where we could gather without feeling uncomfortable about ourselves or our sobriety. About 30 people got together and decided to raise money to rent a space where we could meet. This space became the "Live and Let Live club." In its many incarnations, it has served as meeting place for all kinds of 12-step groups, and as a place to hold social events for clean and sober queers and those who love them.

The Club has moved several times, a three year lease at 2940-A SE of bus service. Amazingly, this location blocks from the very first Club location 17 years, I have remained involved in on its Board of Directors several an active member when the Club buys need a home.

By December of 1981, I was working Services as an alcohol and drug counselor. With my many other duties, I coordinate the Triangle Project, which provides alcohol and drug groups and individual counseling for the community. ASAP is now the ONLY provider of specific chemical dependency treatment for lesbians and gay men. This includes treatment and those who are mandated by the courts due to DUIs, probation, and parole. I am very proud to be a part

On October 4, 1997, I married my girlfriend and we are living "happily ever after" in our own home and have a loving, clean and sober girlfriend. Being clean and sober has given me the opportunity to live as an "out and proud" one of them. I am glad that Portland has a "PRIDE WEEK" where our community can gather each year to celebrate our lives.

(For more information about the Triangle Project, contact ASAP Treatment Services at 224-0075 in Portland.)



but now finally has Belmont, with lots of space. The location is only two blocks from the Club, serving the community. I hope to be involved in its first building. We

at ASAP Treatment Services. Today, along with the Triangle Project, we provide the sexual minority community with specific chemical dependency treatment for those who want to enter treatment and parole requirements of this program.

friend of two years in NE Portland. We have a comfortable life. Being clean and sober has been a blessing.

