

Dear Betsy and Patrick,

The last family weekend was impactful for me; I continue to think about it often. I can not thank you enough for essentially saving Sam's life. It was almost a year ago when he left for Wilderness Treatment Center. At that time, he was nearly gone. He thought his future would involve jail or being shot in a drug deal. He told me that with little evident emotion, and without any effort/ability to know how to change that direction. I was terrified. When the escorts transported him from our house last July, I literally thought I might die from the pain. It was the second time in two years he had left our home this way. The first time was horrible; but I wasn't sure I would survive it the second time. Then we scrambled to figure out where he needed to go after Wilderness. By the grace of God, we found you and In Balance. Now, nearly a year later, Sam is healthy. He is laughing and smiling again. He has energy that he directs toward positive activities, and he is enjoying a life without drugs/alcohol. I could go on and on about the changes I have seen occur this year. He is physically, spiritually, and mentally healthy. He is considerate, appreciative, thoughtful, and motivated. You have taken him out of that deep, dark place where he had spent so much time the past few years. I didn't send him to you so I would feel better, but now I certainly do. The despair I felt watching him without being able to affect any substantial change in him myself was enormous. It was such a horrible, helpless feeling to see him slip further and further away. Today, Sam is happy. What a gift.

So, thanks to both of you a thousand times over for all the personal sacrifices you make to save the lives of precious people. Sam is the only child I had. He is my family. I appreciate that he is here today and able to have a loving relationship with his family and a healthy life ahead because of the work you have done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.