

Amadeus Jackson

At first look, Amadeus Jackson may seem like he belongs in an MMA Octagon, due to his jacked-up physique, the tattoos that cover his arms and chest, full beard, and short hair. You'd never think that just two years ago, he was hopeless and broken, and would have been content with dying due to being a slave to a substance. And then he found GateHouse.

Today, Jackson continues his recovery through his job. As the Lead Recovery Support Specialist at GateHouse Recovery, he plays an integral role in the treatment of fellow addicts. "Basically, I deal with the day-day operations at Gatehouse," he said. This includes making sure clients get to their appointments, insuring they have a safe environment to thrive in, and managing other program support techs. His smile says all you need to know about the happiness he feels now, an emotion he never felt as a hardcore meth addict.

There is no doubt in Amadeus Jackson's mind that GateHouse provided him with the tools to make the perception change that he needed to live a healthy life. "The staff and others in treatment helped me to find contentment and a purpose in life," Jackson explains. That purpose? To help other individuals who wore the same shoes as Jackson. "That's the best part of my job," he says. "Seeing people go from being totally defeated to realizing their own transformation. This job is not about money or accolades. It's about the rewards you get from seeing others beat their demons and succeed. Seeing this on a daily basis at GateHouse has enlightened my soul."

A job in recovery is tough, because although you see your share of successful transformations, tragedy and loss are all too common, and Jackson is quick to note that. "The hardest part of the job is when clients relapse, and seeing families endure with that pain. People die because of their addictions, and it's really tough to watch someone who at one point was on the right path and really making progress succumb to their disease. You never get used to having your heart broken, but it's part of the territory."

The successes, however, are reasons to celebrate, and provide the motivation and inspiration to continue working to help others win their battles. Jackson has also seen his share of wins, with one particular case standing out. "An individual showed up, really wanting to be part of the Gatehouse program. But, circumstances beyond their control looked like they were going to prevent that. However, the GateHouse staff saw that this individual was serious about getting clean and was highly motivated, and eventually awarded a scholarship. It was a really long road for this person, but eventually they were able to get over their anger, and gradually started to transform. Like me, they at one time considered themselves hopeless. But they saw the light, took advantage of the tools provided by GateHouse, and emerged from the program successful. For someone like me, who's been in those shoes, there's no better feeling."

Growing up in West Palm Beach, Florida, Jackson says he never had connections with anybody, including family. His father died at an early age, and his mother left him and his brother not long after that due to her issues with drugs and alcohol. It was a tough upbringing, but admittedly, the choices he made didn't help his situation. "Instead of trying to find help and support, I relied on drugs to mask the pain and despair I was feeling," said Jackson. Despite going down the dangerous path of addiction, it would be some time before he finally reached out for some real help.

Jackson jokes that Nashua, New Hampshire was probably the last place he ever thought of going for treatment. However, a conversation with a GateHouse admissions staff member made him realize that he had to seek quality care immediately, because he knew that without it, he would die. A self-described treatment All-Star, because of 14 previous failed attempts at rehab, he considered GateHouse his final option. "I knew I had to get treatment that worked. More than anything, I just wanted to feel love and

have some support. It was absolutely rough at first, but as time passed by, I realized that GateHouse was providing me with everything I was missing. Thanks to their caring staff, I was finally able to make the commitment to get clean and stick with it.”

Today, Amadeus Jackson is happy and proud to call Nashua, New Hampshire home. He considers his co-workers, and the clients he works with his family, and his best friends. This has been huge to him, because prior to his time at GateHouse, he was never able to be a true friend to anybody, because his life was consumed by being a slave to the substance. Equally important is the special bond he has developed with the local recovery community, and the leadership role he has taken with AA. Instead of relying on drugs to get him through the day, he gets his inspiration from the clients who came to Gatehouse before him, especially the higherups, who went through the program and are now leading the company. And as far as the future? To Jackson, it is limitless, because of all he’s been through. “My recovery will be a lifelong journey, but I refuse to set any limits because after all I’ve been through, and what I see others going through, I’ve learned not to sell myself short.”