

I was born Connecticut in 1978 and spent a good part of my life in the New England area. I was born to two married and happy people who are still together to this day and just celebrated their 50th anniversary. My childhood was great. Family vacations, folks had good jobs, nice home in the suburbs, everything a kid could want. When I was born I had a deficiency in my left foot called club foot. I was operated on at birth and had this nagging pain in my lower leg/foot since I could remember. I didn't know what to do and like many who have the same issue just dealt with the pain. I remember one day, maybe I was twelve or so looking at my grandparents pain meds in our home and thinking, what the hell maybe this will help. Little did I know that this would be the beginning of a 25 year downward spiral that landed me in everything from jails to rehabs and institutions. For me it was a progression that continually got worse and worse over time. Taking piece by piece of my soul and destroying everything around me. What started with taking a few Percocet's and valium here and there from family and friends to seeking out Oxycontin and heroin from drug dealers. It was around 1999 or 2000 that I made the choice to get help. Not court ordered help of forced intervention but real help. They say you will never help yourself until you hit the bottom and beg for help, really want it. So I decided to enter a methadone program. The real hell began the day I received my very first dose. I went through all the paper work, met a counselor and was told to go to the window for my first 30MG dose. This was my first time taking the med so I didn't know how much consist of a normal dose but was told 30MG coming off the street was totally normal and the standard they use. Unfortunately I was accidentally given a much higher dose of 30ML which is equivalent to 300MG (A lethal dose for anyone). The clinic realized that they had given me 10 times the dose and rushed me to the county hospital. Over the next 5 days, all of which was spent in the ICU, my heart stopped a number of times and was on a Narcan drip for a majority of the time to counteract the methadone. Five days later I came out of the hospital on a massive daily methadone dose of 140 MG/per day. I tried to get off the methadone for almost 17 years. Trying everything from quick drop in doses, slow detox, cold turkey, suboxone, buspar, Orlaam etc... You name I tried it. Nothing was successful. About Three years ago I managed (over the period of two years) to take my last dose of methadone. I decreased 1 MG every other week, went real slow and got down to 4MG or to the point where it was no longer holding me and honestly felt like I was wasting \$90 a week for nothing. I decided enough was enough and took PTO from my job and fought the fight. Extreme pain, RLS, hot and cold... all of it in the worst way. I thought this would maybe last a week, not quite, after two weeks of pure agony and hell I was still in crippling withdrawal. Methadone was by far the hardest fight of my life. The medicine is time released and stores in your body which is why it has such a low success rate in quitting. Some patients quit, but a majority end right back on it in a matter of time. Trust me, I watched the same faced come and go over the 17 years I went to the clinic. Two weeks after my last dose at the clinic and still fighting the withdrawal and the terrible opiate depression that follows quitting, I saw the kratom in a local smokeshop. I had heard of it thought all the research I did on quitting methadone so I kind of knew what it was. I bought a pack of 50 pills and took maybe 5 or 7 right away as soon as I got to my car. I can

honestly say that within 30 minutes I felt like a brand new person. I was out of bed, zipping around the house and feeling better than I have felt in years. All naturally too may I add... This leaf did it for me! It was the answer I was looking for and has helped me finally remove the liquid handcuffs that is methadone and opiate addiction. I have since found a solid vendor who tests the products they sell and genuinely care about their customers and the kratom community. This plant, this leaf has given me my life back. It allows me to work without feeling the pain associated with club foot. It gives me so much motivation and ultimately has made me a much better person. On a side note, I didn't even realize this but I haven't had a drink since I started a daily kratom regiment. Kratom has completely removed any urge (or) want to drink alcohol or take opiate pain meds and heroin. This plant has given my life back to me and I will do anything in my power to keep it legal and available to anyone who can benefit from it.