

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
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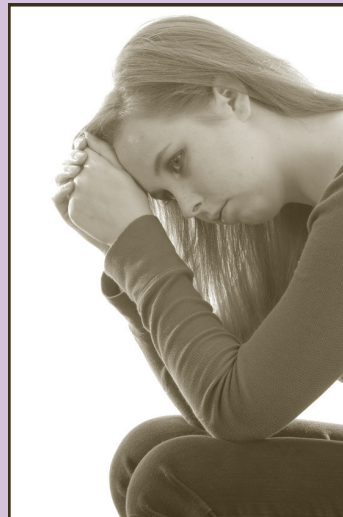
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 MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR: Potawatomi Bingo Casino

For Help, call:
1-800-GAMBLE-5

Summer 2011

One Compulsive Gambler's Story

I am a compulsive gambler! I have gambled as far back as I can remember. When did it turn into a problem? I really don't know. I was always a responsible person. I worked hard, paid my bills and raised my kids to be responsible adults. When growing up, it was church bingo and poker and sheep head games at family gatherings. I never thought much about it then. As I raised my kids as a single parent I didn't have the time or money to gamble. When my kids left home I was fortunate to have a good job, more money and more time for myself. At this time I remarried, but I still had a lot of time on my hands. I was used to working three jobs and taking care of my kids. Then I discovered the Casino. I think the worst thing that happened was when I had a big win on a slot machine. It was an awesome experience. The feeling was what I thought a person doing drugs must feel. That was the beginning of a long and bumpy road for me. Over a period of about 15 years I spent a lot of time and money trying to get that feeling back again. It never happened. When I would win I could never get up and leave. It was never enough so I would keep playing until every dollar was gone and then would promise myself I was not going to gamble again, but that promise didn't last long. As soon as I could get my hands on more money I would be right back. During this time I created a lot of damage financially, personally and emotionally. I lost a good paying job because "I borrowed from my employer," only I forgot to tell them. That put me into the legal system. I was lucky (or unlucky) because I got probation and was ordered to make restitution to my employer. You would think that would have been a wakeup call for me, but it wasn't. I kept gambling for several more years. I cleaned out our savings, retirement and investment accounts. The day came when my husband found out because I couldn't juggle accounts or hide what I was doing anymore. I was losing my family and had already lost friends and didn't know what to do. I made a call to the WCPG for help and was given a GA meeting to go to. I was scared as I didn't know what to expect. When I went, I knew it couldn't be any worse than my life had become. That was the best thing I could have done, because it literally saved my life. Recovery has been a life choice for me. For the last ten years, I have been active in GA and with the WCPG to get the word out that there is help and hope available. I live a peaceful life now. Fortunately I am still married and my husband is one of my biggest supporters in my recovery. When I was "in action" I didn't like who I had become, but today I am comfortable with who I am. Being in recovery isn't the easiest thing, but I'm making the right choice everyday (not to gamble) and I choose to have a happy peaceful life.



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