

Date: March 9, 2016

To: Times Herald Newspaper  
420 Virginia Street  
Vallejo CA 94590

From: Tony B. Johnson  
504 Lemon Street  
Vallejo CA 94591  
(707) 332-5207

Dear Editor:

My name is Tony Johnson. Vallejo has a little known program that is a "one stop shop" for the disenfranchised and under-served citizens. I am a native of Vallejo. My wife and I have been attending the Global Center for success for the past year or so and have both graduated from the program. On Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 8AM at Dan Foley, the Global Center for Success is honoring the graduates of the program. However, it is really the staff and volunteers that deserve all of the honor for their selfless service to our community.

My experience started off as just another manipulation. After being incarcerated and on drugs dating back to 1975, I had little belief that anything could help me. I did not believe that I had fair at shot at a stable life.

That all quickly changed when I met Dr. Porter, Charlotte Webb, Ron and the whole staff of Global Center for Success. I was fresh off of heroin, suffering from bipolar disorder and in desperate need of intervention. From the moment that I walked into the Global center for success on Mare Island, I was met with a nonjudgmental staff (some of who were homeless and former drug addicts themselves) they wrapped me in the services and skills that are essential for a fresh start at life. They did it with with respect, compassion and humor.

As a direct result of the Global center for success, I have completed something; life skills, financial management, time management, anger management, drug counseling and marriage counseling classes. Currently, I am waiting for the GED class to resume, so that I may finish my High school diploma. The Global Center for Success has job training, interview skills, computer classes and clothing for men and women.

The Global Center for success stood with me and supplied a great reference to a landlord which secured housing in Vallejo for me and my wife. They did not stop there; they helped furnish our home and supplied us with clothing.

We remain students in order to be accountable to ourselves and encourage others that there really is hope. Today, I am living independently and I am drug free for the first time in my entire life. I feel like a success.

The Global Center for Success is a community supported non-profit that uses the generous donations of Vallejoans to help others at no cost to those in need. Please help get the word out, that there is help in our city.

Sincerely,

Tony Johnson