

Marshall's Story

"Once you reach a point in life when it's time to change, it's up to you to make that decision," explained Marshall, a 43 year-old resident of Bonaventure House.

"Two years ago, I saw a photograph of myself, lying on the ground as if I were dead. I knew I had to make a change." Adolescence was not easy for Marshall. By the age of 13, he was regularly running the streets and drinking. Over the course of the next 30 years, Marshall bounced between correctional facilities and living on the streets.

Shortly after seeing that photograph of himself, Marshall came across a flyer for a program that offered the opportunity for a new beginning. This would ultimately be the springboard to his residence at Bonaventure House.

Now, months after his arrival at Bonaventure House, Marshall has made great strides toward improving the quality of his life. In addition to his part-time position as Maintenance Assistant, he attends five to six recovery meetings each week. He sits on the boards of the Community Advisory Board, as well as the Asian Human Service and African Refugee Project. Marshall serves as the chairman of Positive Progress meeting at Test Positive Awareness Network (TPAN), as well as the *In the Light* meeting at Bonaventure House.

Through CarePoint, he does service work at Truman College and is a member of the IOTA program. As for the future, Marshall hopes to become a community health activist. Marshall explained that "it's great to get the opportunity to live on the other side of the street for a change."