



For over 40 years Amicus has been improving public safety by helping people change their lives. Here are a few of our stories...



## Kevin Byker



On work release from Faribault Correctional Facility, Kevin, whose leg was amputated after a car accident, was dropped off at non-accessible transitional housing without a wheelchair.

"I remember one of the first things staff there said to me was, 'How are YOU going to work? You've got 30 days to find a job or you're going back to prison.' I told them, show me where the bus station is and I'll find a job."

With help from Amicus "Reconnect," Kevin found a wheelchair, a job, an apartment and new hope. He is still going back to the transitional housing facility he spent his first weeks in after prison, but these days he's going back as a member of their board of directors.

"What if I didn't have Amicus? What would I have done? I had a lot of things going against me. Right now I'm doing well, but an awful lot of people can use that kind of help to gain self-sufficiency."



## Arnold Ashland



Shortly after leaving the armed services, Arnold Ashland got involved with the wrong crowd and paid the price with a prison sentence for armed robbery. He recalls his first days in prison as a time when he was so frightened and hopeless that he couldn't even muster the courage to leave his cell.

He contacted Amicus and was assigned a "One to One" mentor, who, over a decade later, remains a good friend. With his friend, Arnold began making plans again and years later got his release. He's been out of prison several years now. While he's not immune to economic struggle, Arnold remains optimistic and even volunteers his time with Amicus to help those becoming involved in the organization understand what a friend can mean to someone who feels abandoned by everyone else.

"To me Amicus was like a light at the end of a long dark tunnel."

## Excerpts from One to One Letters



"**Incarceration** means almost complete isolation from the reality of normal life. Many here find themselves overwhelmed with fear as their time for release approaches. If nothing else (and there is substantially more), your efforts... help us bridge the gap from being inside to sustaining a new life outside." - CS



## Christina Barker



Looking at the end of her sentence at Shakopee Correctional Facility, Christina Barker had plans to make a clean break from the lifestyle that landed her in prison but she needed help.

"It can be hard coming out of a place and not having anything different to go to," Christina said. "If you come out of somewhere and all you have to go back to is where you came from, then your odds are pretty slim that you're going to be able to change."

Christina took advantage of every opportunity she could find for education, and even went to cosmetology school in prison. She helped make her plans with her Amicus "One to One" mentors and when she was released Amicus was there for her. Her "One to One" mentors helped her move into a new apartment and helped her build up her confidence and job interviewing skills. When she needed a haircut kit for her work, Amicus was instrumental in finding funding for it through a local nonprofit.

"I needed help and support from people I didn't know, because I didn't know anybody who was where I wanted to be."

## Excerpts from One to One Letters



**"For a guy like me** who has done a lot of prison time, a "One to One" mentor is a very important relationship. I ask you to do whatever must be done to make sure this Amicus foundation stays very much alive." - VV

**"(Amicus) helped me to find a friend** in a time that I needed one the most. There are others who are as serious as I am about never returning here. I hope this opportunity will be available to them as well." - CA

**"I know** if it were not for volunteers, education and the Amicus "One to One" program I would be sitting here in prison planning my next hustle. Instead, I now have hopes and plans on finding employment, going back to school and doing something to give back to the community upon my release" – GS

**"This letter** cannot sufficiently express the effect this program has had on me. I moved from self-imposed seclusion to gratefully visiting with my mentor, learning the real world news every third Wednesday in a two-hour visit that is over all too soon. I am enclosing a (\$50) donation as an expression of my gratitude." – JB (\$50 is the typical pay for 100 hours of work behind bars.)

**"I have been** a part of the "One to One" mentoring program for four years. My mentor has not only supported me here in prison, but we will be carrying on our relationship after I'm released. He has really become a friend and a very positive force in my life. Most guys that are in prison don't trust many people, if any. I trust my mentor with anything." - GN

## About Amicus

Amicus is a Minnesota not for profit organization with over 40 years of experience in improving public safety by helping inmates, ex-offenders and juveniles in the criminal justice system make a positive transition into our communities. Our programs rely on building relationships, working within the framework of our region's communities and cultures, and showing the results of what we do with a strong focus on outcomes. We rely on a combination of individual gifts, foundation grants and government contracts to support our work.