



Reporter: [Stuart Summers](#)

Making a Difference: Breaking an Addictive Past

May 12, 2009 10:35 PM MDT

Continuing our series Making a Difference, we take a closer look at a woman who is letting go of an addictive past and now working toward a bright future.

After battling meth addiction for a number of years, Tesja Erickson is now helping others to avoid a similar tragedy. Her story is one of heartache turned into hope, and is now an inspiration to others.

Tesja Erickson, overcame meth addiction: "Not even once. Because once you try meth you are hooked. You are hooked mentally, physically, and emotionally."

Tesja's story of just once began as a teenager with low self-esteem. Despite growing up in a loving and supportive family, she turned to meth to solve her problems.

Tesja: "The only places meth leads is to death and destruction and jail. I was okay with that type of future for me."

Meth caused Tesja's life to spiral recklessly out of control.

Tesja: "I wasn't worthy of my wonderful family. The only thing that I was worthy of because of meth was death."

Ty Erickson, father: "Many nights I thought that the phone call would come and I would have to go and identify her body. I am still haunted by that."

Thankfully that call never came to her father, but for six long years Tesja had run-ins with the law. Then one day she had a brutal wake up call that would forever change her life.

Tesja: "My probation officer said I'm going to throw you in jail if you don't stop using."

That was the turning point in her life when she stopped using meth, and years later she shares her story of recovery.

Ty: "There is no greater joy than to see a good daughter like Tesja become the type of person that she inherently can become."

Tesja: "I try not to take the time to feel guilty about the things that I have done. I've paid my debt to society and I'm trying to give back and it's time to move on."

Tesja now tells her story as a volunteer with the Idaho Meth Project. She says that she is making the biggest difference through sharing her tragic experience and letting meth users know that they can overcome the addiction.

For more information about the Idaho Meth Project click [here](#).