

friend of a neighbor later groped and molested Shea while they were at a neighbor's pool a year or so later. Shea feels he was an easy target because of his aching desire to be accepted. Shea never said anything to his mother or anybody else about these molestations he endured until 2020 when he shared this luggage with his family. Shea never before tried to seek any help in dealing with these traumatic experiences while growing up. He has started the process of healing these wounds now by speaking to mental health counselors to work out these traumatic experiences and sharing the burden with his family. One can only wonder how Shea's future might have been different without these abuses happening to him, but it was shortly after, at the age of twelve that he was first offered drugs and took them to self-medicate and numb the pain that persisted in him not only from the abuses but also for the loneliness that he says he always felt smothered by.

This beginning drug use quickly began a dependence that Shea was not prepared for, or able to afford. He quickly spiraled out of control, and the consumption of drugs became a natural pattern of his life which seemed to affect him more negatively than his peers. Shea would need to have something to just get out of the bed in the morning. "I felt that if I wasn't high then I wasn't me," Shea claims. Years later he learned that his father had a severe substance abuse problem. Shea strongly believes that he inherited his father's disease and because of his drug habit he resorted to stealing anything that wasn't bolted down. For nearly ten years Shea wasted his life, burnt bridges, and turned friends into enemies by living high to high. Shea committed the robberies and the embezzlement to fund this dependency.

When Shea was arrested at the age of 21, he was in no position to deal with the upcoming events maturely, mentally or financially. Shea's mom was not able to help him either, and truth is that by this point Shea had stretched the unconditional love between mother and child to its breaking point. Shea's mom was obviously becoming fed up with his behavior. Headstrong, young, and no decision making skills, Shea refused to acknowledge the destruction that laid in his wake, always doing what he was accustom to doing which was blaming others. Shea didn't recognize the seriousness of the situation he had put his victims or himself in and refused to accept responsibility for his actions and the crimes he had committed. Shea could not acknowledge that these crimes caused harm, hurt, and pain to the victims because in his mind if he didn't physically attack someone then how could he hurt someone? After being found guilty and sentenced in court, Shea further refused to apologize or ask the victims for their forgiveness. In the past ten years, Shea began to recognize the mental anguish he caused both A■■■■ M■■■■ along with Z■■■■ D■■■■ and regrets very deeply what he put them both through. To the first twelve years of his sentence, Shea continued to live the same pattern of negative behavior that he was accustom to. Entering the gates of prison, he thought he had to be Mr. Tough-Guy and wore it rather than being the person he had become since his torrid childhood. Shea gave off the persona which