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The "Ottawa County Way"

You know, when I first picked up this flyer, I was positive that I would not think of one positive thing about living in Ottawa County.

Then I struck up a conversation with someone, and I found myself praising and promoting Ottawa County.

I found myself saying that Holland has one of the nicest places for people to take a break at 6 West. They care a lot about their clients, if you are open, honest, and have faith in them.

What really struck me as interesting is that Ottawa County opened its eyes to how talented their clients are. They are not afraid to support them in shows, contests, or anything else someone could come up with.

On top of all that, I feel that this county is fair with their clients, they give them chances if they deserve it, and don't give up on them.

I cannot help but think of where I would be if it wasn't for Ottawa County. Yes, I have my down times, but somehow, somebody from the county saw me through it.

Although I feel guilty depending on the county for everything, and realize that sooner or later I must move on, it is nice to know I have them in my corner.

Yes, I have been to other places to get help outside of the county and feel that they threw their patients to the curb, because the workers did not interact with them like 6 West does. I find myself wondering, "What would you do without 6 West?" Again do not depend on outside

influences to make you happy. Lake ACT team said, "Find something that you enjoy doing and run with it. You will be amazed with what happens." My hubby says the same thing.

I love how Ottawa County is willing to help those who are willing to work with them.

Ottawa County has many programs for the handicapped, jobless, and just out of college people to get jobs, homes and other things they may need help with. I feel if you do not abuse it you should be okay.

Yes, I will admit the past couple years have been rocky, but the county had faith, and I feel it still does. I just need to show them that I am willing to work with them, which I think they know I am, and move on.

I'm pretty sure you're wondering "where is she going with all this?" What I'm trying to say is, Ottawa County believes that their clients' current state will improve. They don't give up. Yes, I'm sure they feel like doing it at times then think, "How would I feel if someone gave up on me?"

I know this is off subject, but what would you think or feel if you started seeing 1 or 2 eagles flying over Holland? When I started seeing that, it slowly started to set my mind free. It made me think of what people have fought for.

But just think, eagles in Holland-a symbol of freedom. Look in the sky, enjoy the nature, fill your lungs with the air God blessed us, every bad thing must come to an end. That is what I thought when I walked Grand Haven. That's what I think when I sit at Kollen Park and look at the water.

I strongly believe if I left Ottawa County, I would be lost, I would not know, this county is my life, my heart is here, my history is here.

I personally feel that if I transferred my case outside of this county, I would be no more. As you can see, that is how close Ottawa County gets with their clients.

All in all, I can say that I have been a client of Ottawa County. Yes, I complain from time to time, but I should learn to be thankful for what they have done for me.

I would like to end my essay with this. I thank Ottawa County and ACT for their help and support, and pray all of the other clients experience the same feelings and thinking about Ottawa County that I do.