Mario’s rise to fame and, consequentially, drug addiction, began on a track and field team. Mario was a star athlete at a small high school where he competed in distance running and hurdles events, earning impressive times and the hearts of many in a little town where high school athletes were much admired. Tragically as his family fell on hard times, Mario was forced to drop out of school to go into the family business. Mario’s father, a humble plumber, taught his boys everything he knew – yet Mario wanted more.

At night he dreamed of fame, fortune, and glory. The daily grind was tiresome and depressing. Mario couldn’t help but wonder what might have become of his track career had he been afforded the chance to finish school. One day, an old friend from the team gave him some magic mushrooms. They would make the days pass more colorfully, he said.

Taking mushrooms became part of Mario’s daily routine. Unclog some toilets, get a little high. It was never supposed to become an addiction. He would be found passed out in bathrooms, high on “shrooms.” In his dreams he was Super Mario. He was chasing his dreams, chasing that $$$.

But after the highs came the lows.

Mario’s father brought him to us after continually catching his son stealing from the business. He has been clean for six months thanks to our groundbreaking program. Mario’s courageous story goes to show that anyone can get a second chance at life and at following their dreams.