



## SECOND CHANCES

by SAMANTHA STEIN

# ADDICTED TO LIFE

Philadelphia native Frank Donatucci doesn't believe in second chances. He believes in third, fourth and fifth chances. And when addiction has you at its beck and call, one needs more than *chance* to win the battle. Growing up in South Philadelphia was full of heartache, mistakes and substance abuse for Donatucci, 32. He said doing drugs was not about 'fitting in' or 'peer pressure.' It was about filling voids. "Something was missing in my life. After trying drugs, it felt complete," he said.

Donatucci was no stranger to the perils of substance abuse. His brother died from drugs and his neighborhood was full of people involved in the

same thing. He said he started out using drugs only on the weekends. Then the weekends turned into Monday and Wednesday. Eventually, every day was a weekend. By the time he turned 21, his drug use had gone from casual to full-fledged addiction. After a serious car accident, Donatucci said he reached his personal 'rock bottom' – swallowing about 10 Oxycontin a day.

He knew he needed to change. A family friend suggested a halfway house in Florida. Boarding the plane was his first step toward recovery. The *Twelve Step Program* that followed became a life-changing journey. Things began looking up for Donatucci.

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