

My name is Anthony Swartz. I am 26 years old and live in Missoula, MT. I was born and raised there. When I was 15 years old I sustained a traumatic brain injury. I died 3 times on the table, and I was in a coma for 2 ½ months. I had to learn how to walk and read all over again. I was on morphine, seroquil, neurotin, lortabs, and other medications for 4 years. I hated they way these prescription medications made me feel. I lost all appetite from them, they made me itch, and the depression was at times overwhelming. I tried to take my own life 3 times. Even though I was on these medications I still had seizures daily in the beginning. They were usually stress related but every time I had one I was at risk of slipping back into a coma, or even dying. When I was around 20 years old I quit taking all of these medications and just smoked marijuana. At the time, I was doing so illegally, but it was the only thing that truly helped me without equally hurting me. Kicking the morphine was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do in my entire life. I was sicker than I ever have been in my entire life. I was placed in the providence center to detox for 10 days because the doctor had over prescribed me the opiates, and they also were a deadly mix with one of the anti psychotics I was also prescribed, which is also why I was having such serious issues with depression.

Today, working with the MMP has helped me tremendously. I am able to self medicate as needed, without feeling sick, sad, and alone. I no longer feel like a burden to my family and friends. I have been seizure free for a year now, and I truly believe marijuana is the reason that I am. Saying good bye to all prescription drugs is the best thing I have ever done. My stomach, kidneys, liver, and mental health are very grateful to not be abused anymore. During the 5 years I was off of prescription drugs but not using marijuana I had probably around 20 to 30 seizures. It is hard for me to put an exact number on it because due to my head injury I have a hard time remembering things,

In closing, I just want to stress how much medical marijuana has helped me. Thanks to the MMP I have been able to find a stable life. I no longer have drastic mood swings, bouts of rage, depression, or feelings of being all alone. Prescription drugs made me suffer all of these things. Through the MMP I have found a quality of life I never thought possible, and I am just here today to show my gratitude to Montana legislature for allowing it to become a reality. I hope my story will help you to see the real life results from your decisions, and also help you to ease any doubts you may have had. Thank you.