

SheBrews

COFFEE & TRANSITION PROGRAM



Ashya's Mugshot

meet Ashya

For as long as she could remember, Ashya was surrounded by drugs, addicts, and traumatic experiences. At the age of 11, she was pulled from her bed in the middle of the night and forced to watch her dad being murdered. Proceeding this tragedy, she was the victim of extensive sexual abuse. Her mother's drug addiction took her family to the streets where they slept in storage units until she and her sister were placed in foster homes. Faced with this significant trauma, Ashya sought whatever means she could to numb the pain and became addicted to drugs at a very young age.

As she grew, starved for attention, Ashya discovered that selling drugs fulfilled a need for others. By the age of 15 she was selling drugs and getting high in school. When she was 18, she began a relationship that she thought would finally turn her life around. Sadly, she was gravely mistaken and instead, he introduced her to meth and became abusive. Ashya felt alone and defeated.

She suffered through this relationship for six years until finally mustering the nerve to leave. Ashya reconnected with her sister and together they began selling drugs. She met another guy who she thought truly cared about her. He lured her into drug runs which landed her in jail for distribution. Soon afterwards, she got pregnant and had a baby boy. At this point Ashya knew she wanted to get clean, so she went to Oklahoma City but was caught again for some of her previous charges, got her baby taken, and went to jail. Angry and hurt, she dealt drugs in jail to take care of herself and fought with almost everyone.

While jail was a hard experience for Ashya, it's also where she had her first significant turning point. One day she was calling out to God, crying and asking for a sign, and she remembers looking in the mirror and thinking, "I can't get sober for my son or for anyone else, I have to get sober for me." This was her sign from God. She began reading the bible and praying for change.

She was in jail for 8 months and upon release, knew she would not survive sobriety if she went home. Ashya explored the internet and having heard Rhonda Bear's name in prison, googled her. She called Rhonda and Rhonda suggested she go to rehab. After completing rehab, Ashya moved into Reincarnation Cottages, a sober living program, and was able to get a Stand in the Gap small group with Rhonda's help.

But Aysha was still living on the fence, with one foot in and one foot out. She would occasionally make a trip from Pryor to Tulsa to sell pills. At the Cottages, she made a dear friend and found out this friend was using drugs. Ashya wrestled with what to do but instead of telling on her friend, she began using drugs as well and got kicked out of the program.

Ashya saw her life was at a crossroads- she could pick up some dope to sell or turn her life around. Without thinking, Ashya dialed Rhonda's number and told her everything. Rhonda immediately picked her up, and they sat in a Denny's corner booth for hours. Ashya was high, unsure of what to do with her life, and Rhonda sat patiently watching from the other side saying, "the choice is yours. I have a spot for you and the choice is yours." Something struck Ashya's heart, she knew she had to stay and change her life. She moved into She Brews Transition Program in Claremore and started the long journey to recovery.

A few months later, her friend from the previous sober living house committed suicide. While filled with immense grief, Ashya was also filled with deep gratitude knowing that it could have been her. She was one choice away from that same fate. She decided with earnestness to be fully transparent with everyone and commit to the real transformation.



Ashya and her She Brews Friends

She recommitted to her Stand in the Gap small group, started a 12-step study to process the deep seeded trauma and threw herself in the She Brews community. She found people to walk with her, people who were truly for her, and slowly rebuilt her life.

A year into the program, by the grace of God, Ashya has been able to heal and forgive her transgressors. She is able to say she loves her mom, even though her mom was not able to protect her when she was helpless. While she still does not have her son, Ashya gets to see him twice a week and is prayerful and hopeful, knowing that God has a plan. She is currently working at Grand Mental Health, training to become a recovery support specialist and will focus on children who are 15-17 with substance abuse issues. She is also a house manager in the She Brews program and will start Rogers State University in August.

she news

2023 was quite the year. Where did it go!? For us, it went into updating and upgrading our coffee program. You heard me, She Brews coffee just got even better!

At the end of last year, we invested in a Stronghold Roaster and believe us, this isn't just any old roaster. It's the real deal. On this roaster we will be able to provide higher quality roasts with a 95% consistency rate specific to each bean.

You can't get a fancy new piece of equipment without upgrading what goes into it. So, we have also spent many hours researching and tasting coffee to provide the best beans to our customers. We've got Ethiopia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and more waiting for you at the shop!

In addition to producing exceptional coffee, this roaster allows for more job opportunities for our women. It has made the skill of roasting more accessible to the women we serve allowing us to move it fully in-house. With this, we will be able to better serve our current wholesale clients while also expanding the operation. Have a business or church that drinks coffee? We've got you! Email us at wholesale@shebrews.org.

Lastly, we are excited to share that our Founder, Rhonda, was appointed to the Modern Justice Task Force by Governor Stitt. As a member of the Task Force, Rhonda is positioned to impact policy to improve safety for officers, the public, and those suffering from substance abuse and mental health issues. These issues impact the population we serve at high rates.



Lead Roaster, Kieona, Studying Beans

a word from Rhonda

Each quarter is filled with obstacles, opportunities, miracles, and adventures. There is no expectation that the journey towards changed lives will be easy. Some obstacles feel like an unclimbable mountain, and yet we have witnessed that those are the times the women show up and encourage one another. They cheer one another on, they sit at the hospital with each other, they go to court hearings together. They celebrate the reunifications with children, the acquiring of driver's licenses, the answers to the tough prayers. We call these miracles.

If all of this is not enough adventure, this past week, we were invited to speak at the Jewish Federation luncheon, we celebrated a one-year birthday, made a move to Crossover as our resident church in Tulsa and reviewed multiple applications for the Director of Operations position for She Brews Coffee Roasters. It's never a dull moment and the Lord is consistently faithful.