

PERSONAL INFORMATION-

My name is Chad Evans. I was born and raised in Keene NH. I am 39 years old and I am blessed with a 14 year old son named Kyle. Prior to incarceration I lived in Rochester NH with Kyle. I worked on the Seacoast overseeing the daily operations of multiple restaurants. Being responsible for nearly \$10,000,000 in sales and 250 employees took a fair amount of my time but when I wasn't working I enjoyed doing things with Kyle.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS-

I love playing team sports, hiking, boating, swimming, working out, eating healthy, working with my hands, dairy farming, spending time with family and friends, reading, visiting new places-especially NY City, and playing board games. In addition to many of these activities listed above, Kyle also loves video games.

MOTIVATION-

The single most important thing in my life is Kyle. Prison can be one of the most depressing places because you are separated from all that you love. Knowing that Kyle is there gives me the courage to get up and fight everyday to get back to him. I can be having the worst possible week and a visit with him or a 5 minute phone call can make it all better. We enjoy a close relationship, can easily talk about anything and enjoy each others company. Kyle has two parents that love him very much. His mother and I both feel lucky to have such a caring, grounded, patient, open minded, spirited, and selfless son.

WHAT HAS FCC DONE FOR ME-

The program and people that run the Family Connections Center have been an invaluable resource and have helped me maintain my close relationship with Kyle. I have made many mistakes in my life but the two things that I've always been pretty good at are work and being a dad. I grew up in a close knit family and had good basic parenting skills. FCC has done much in the way of helping me enhance life skills.

I enjoy many aspects of the program, some with immediate personal benefit, and other aspects that I might not appreciate as much if I were not in this position; such as watching a new dad come into the program and learn some of the basic skills necessary to becoming a good father.

People learn in a variety of ways and I believe Mrs. Kelley does an excellent job ensuring that we all stay involved and are being challenged to be the best that we can be. I tend to be an auditory learner and gain the most benefit from some of the guest speakers that come in to teach, in particular, Dr. Leo Sandy of Plymouth State University. I live by the creed that, "Knowledge is Power" and am always seeking more information to be the best dad to Kyle, to relate better with him, and be a better communicator in all my personal relationships.

I enjoy the opportunities I am given to express my love to Kyle through books on CD, making holiday cards for him, video visits, Father's Day visit, through some of the seminars were we have created crafts in our children's honor. I also appreciate the exchanges between dads in our weekly support groups. I am always finding new and creative ways to show Kyle how much he means to me.

Another area I think the staff at FCC is very helpful to us is in teaching how to better communicate with the mothers of our children. Unfortunately, by the time many men reach prison their relationships are broken. Many of us have done irreparable harm, typically due to our inability to communicate effectively. It breaks my heart to see all the sadness and realize that many of the breakups and stress could have been prevented had we had these skills during our marriages. However, there is hope. The past cannot be changed but all future relationships, and our response, are within our control. We are offered another point of view, more "tools" to help us express our feelings and most importantly, listening and empathy skills for what our former partners are dealing with in our absence.