

My name is Jon Horrocks, I live in the northwest corner of Connecticut in Winsted , and have traveled here this evening to help raise awareness for the further funding of organizations such as Independence Northwest, Inc. I, personally have been privileged enough to have been a consumer of the services of this non-profit organization for almost 2 years now.

I had become very sick and my health was deteriorating back in the summer of 2011, and subsequently was hospitalized for a short period of time. Because of this, I had lost my job due to excessive absence, and needed time to recover and gain my strength once again to continue being a productive member of our society once again. Independence Northwest was one of, if not the principal reasons for me to be able to be here today and speak with you now, for their services were extended graciously to me in my most troubled times. I was on the verge of losing my apartment, in which they helped support my rental payments. I met with their consumer counselors and case workers many times and found a group of professionals whose goal it was to help everyone in need to get back on their own independence once again.

I can say to you now, this help was instrumental in such a positive way, that it changed my very perspectives and what was really important in my life. For the first time I was awakened to the greater humanity there is in our communities, and instinctively engrained within us all to help others in any way when it is given the opportunity to do so. I then started to look for ways to give back to the community, that was given to me, a helping hand. As I was looking for work, which we all seem to know is no easy task these days to do so for many in our country, I was able to donate my time at the local foodbank. I was able to go into the schools, and help distribute food to family's in need thru a program called backpacks for kids. This was paramount to further understanding the great call for these types of services to be kept ongoing, and further creation of other new helping programs desperately needed everywhere.

My quality of life now, it being from my own perspective, is quite a contrast to the former person I was due to the abilities of Independence Northwest to help me and many others. It is enriched with compassion, and drive to do what I can to help my fellow man, woman, and child in any way I can. Therefore, I ask you to take a close look at the greater importance of furthering the funding for these great organizations in as many ways possible both now, and in the future. Their rewards may sometimes be seen as bright as the sun, and sometimes unseen, only to be revealed in a amazing way sometime in the future. Your decisiveness to keep Independence Northwest and others like it funded will have nothing but greater impact on our community and to inspire others to contribute to such noble causes.

In closing, I thank all of you for your time spent here now listening to my words and thoughts, and of the many others you will hear tonight as well. Our message to you who guide our futures here in the state of Connecticut, is one, and simple....please keep funds available, and hopes and dreams of many in your mind as you debate the tough decisions ahead needed to balance the states budget.