

Addiction has a profoundly personal impact on my life, as my father has struggled with alcoholism for many years. Watching someone you love grapple with addiction is heart-wrenching. It takes a toll on me, my daily routine, and my entire family. The emotional strain is significant—moments of uncertainty, fear, and helplessness exist in my life. My family has faced challenges such as financial instability, broken trust, and the constant stress of worrying about my father's well-being. This experience has taught me the importance of resilience, empathy, and finding healthy ways to cope with stress. Despite these difficulties, I have found solace in pursuing a career in the fashion industry. Fashion has always been a passion of mine, allowing me to express myself and find an escape from the challenges at home. I am currently working in a restaurant to support my studies. I am committed to using my education in fashion to make a difference, not just for myself but for others who may need a creative outlet or a sense of belonging. Beyond my professional aspirations, I actively serve my community. I volunteer at my local Catholic Church, where I help with translation and various community outreach efforts. I altar serve on Sundays, translate at enrollment meetings, and train young altar servers. Volunteering has shown me the importance of giving back and being a support system for those in need, just as I have benefited from the support of others. I hope to use my education in the fashion industry to create a space where others and I can feel empowered and included. Through fashion, I want to foster a sense of confidence and self-expression, especially for those who have faced challenges similar to mine. Addiction has taught me that healing and growth come in many forms, and I believe my journey in fashion can be a meaningful part of that process.