

SENIOR TURNS HIS LIFE AROUND *by John Sanchez and Alex Slaid*

During his late middle school and early high school career, Stephen “Matt” Godfrey spent his time doing drugs and drinking alcohol.

“My parents divorced when I was nine. I had a great family up until my parents started fighting,” Godfrey said. “Then I shunned my mom out and lived with my drunken dad. My mom also had a drinking problem.”

Godfrey’s family life rubbed off on him. He struggled with addiction since he was 13 and even had a life threatening experience with alcohol. However, on Jan. 26, 2011, his mother Wendy, was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer.

“It became my duty to take care of her and be her caretaker as she did for me as a kid,” Godfrey said. “It built our relationship more than I can even express. This cancer is now a blessing because it brings us closer and shows us that God never lets us go,” Godfrey said.

His newfound relationship with Christ gave Godfrey the strength he needed to quit his struggle with addiction. Another way to strengthen his fight was to join PALS.

“There’s a really big emphasis on not breaking code,” Godfrey said.

The PALS code was an agreement with the PAL, their PALS and Mr. Kobal that the student wouldn’t drink or do drugs or tobacco. If the code was broken, the offender

will be kicked out of PALS, letting down not only their fellow PALS and Mr. Kobal, but their PAlEes (the children they mentor every week) too.

“I love my PAlEes. They are my best friends and I didn’t realize that we would influence each other in really great ways,” Godfrey said.

Godfrey said he learned how to be an open person, learned the difference between work and play and that he should try to stay positive. He tried to incorporate these ideals in his everyday life.

“Your attitude affects everyone. I work in retail and I’ve found that positivity is the only thing that helps a bad situation,” Godfrey said.

Godfrey regretted not joining PALS earlier because he enjoyed it so much.

“It’s awesome. My favorite thing about it all is the family that we’ve created. I could be having a terrible day, but the second I get to PALS, I can’t help but smile,” Godfrey said. “I love the family we make for ourselves in PALS. There is definitely a lot of love there.”

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Hey, wanna be my **PAL?**



Senior Matt Godfrey stands by the PALS poster next to the classroom. *photo by Will Davis*