

REMARKABLE STORIES OF SUCCESS



MHA first met LaDonna Little Elk in 2016 when she walked into our office intoxicated and, I would guess, not exactly sure what she was looking for. LaDonna's drinking had progressed to the point of having a BAC of .512 and, sadly, still walking around. At the young age of just 28 her body was shutting down and we were slowly losing her. Fortunately, LaDonna went to treatment and upon her graduating from the program she returned to MHA as a volunteer. She only volunteered a few short months when we decided to offer her a position as an employee.

Today, LaDonna is a Program Coordinator and oversees our Honu Home programs and supports individuals reentering our community from state prisons. In addition to her full-time job and many other activities she also speaks at community events and schools about both her personal story and her expertise as a queer, indigenous woman in

recovery. This year, LaDonna graduated with a bachelors in History and minors in Native Studies and Political Science. She recently applied to four graduate programs for Criminal Justice/Criminology and has already been accepted to one of her top choices. Her goal is to obtain a master's degree and maybe even go on for her doctorate. It has been a blessing to watch LaDonna grow over the last eight years. MHA will deeply miss her expertise and of course her sense humor, yet we are excited to see where this journey leads her.

Congratulations LaDonna and thank you for all you've done and all you have contributed to MHA and those we serve!

