



## **Pax Prentiss - CEO & Co-Founder Passages Malibu & Passages Ventura**

As the old adage goes, if at first you don't succeed try, try again. For Pax Prentiss, CEO and co-founder of Passages Malibu and Passages Ventura, the most innovative and 5-star drug and alcohol treatment centers in the world, he tried and tried again for 10 years. Pax tried almost every treatment method, including rehab, detox centers, hospitals, addiction specialists, 12 Step, and even quitting cold turkey at home, but nothing worked. Nothing worked until he and his father, Chris Prentiss, Passages co-founder, discovered a new way to treat addiction effectively.

Pax, who was addicted to heroin, cocaine, and alcohol, knows exactly why he failed at his previous rehab attempts. It's because he was being treated with an antiquated treatment philosophy and program based on the 12 Step methods. It simply didn't work for him. Why? It treated addiction as a disease, focused on group therapy instead of individual care, and labeled you an addict for life. He and his father found an alternative route that focused on a holistic, non-12 Step, non-disease approach that centered around discovering and treating the underlying issues that lead to Pax turning to drugs and alcohol to ease his pain.

"The other programs never got to the root of my problems – the true reason I was using in the first place, which was low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety," explains Pax, who was raised in Venice, California and currently lives in Calabasas, near his Passages Malibu flagship treatment center. "My dad and I tried everything and I failed every time. But then we realized it's not just about stopping the drug and alcohol abuse, but it's about learning why you use and then healing it."

Today, Pax almost has 12 years of sobriety under his belt, and for the past 10 years he has helped thousands of people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction through the same exact methods, treatments, and philosophy that saved his life. "Before sobriety, I didn't have a life. Every day consisted of figuring out ways to get heroin. I was strung-out and very sick. Today, I get to help people who are dealing with addiction. It's very fulfilling," says Pax.

His survival story offers a living example of the dramatic life turn-around that those fighting addiction can achieve through the holistic methods and intensive one-on-one therapy offered at Passages Malibu and Passages Ventura.

Pax started using drugs as a teenager and it was a problem that his father, Chris, soon became well aware of. Chris stood by his troubled son's side through countless attempts to get clean. Out of concern, Chris once took Pax to a remote cabin in Big Sur in the Central Coast of California for nine months to get him away from drugs and alcohol. But, the day he returned home, after nine months of sobriety, he immediately started using again.

Desperate to fuel his increasingly dangerous drug habit, Pax lied, stole, cheated friends and loved ones, and passed bad checks. At one point, he was reduced to standing in the street, trying to sell his shoes for \$10 so he could buy heroin. He hit rock bottom when he started stealing heroin from drug dealers. He was eventually caught by them, beaten with his jaw broken in two places,

taken to the desert, and forced to dig his own grave. He managed to escape alive and was taken to the hospital, but upon his discharge, he set out for more drugs. He was back in a life-or-death struggle.



His wake-up call came when he learned that he would be a father. Pax decided to turn his life around in order to step up for his little baby girl. Today, he is a devoted single father who has been able to experience the joys of raising his daughter, 12-year-old Taylor, in a clean and healthy lifestyle.

During his harrowing 10-year nightmare, Pax and his father made an exhaustive search of our nation's rehabs seeking solutions and found that they primarily offered the one-size-fits-all 12 Step method based on group sessions. They knew that there had to be a better way to treat people as individuals and as a result, created Passages Malibu and Passages Ventura based on the methods that ultimately worked for Pax, grounded in intensive one-on-one therapy, and a commitment not to label individuals as life-long addicts but instead treat them as people who need therapy to heal core issues in the lives.

“One of the greatest gifts of my recovery is to see just how much our philosophy of treatment has truly helped and how others in the treatment industry are changing their thinking about it as well,” adds Pax. “There are a lot of other centers trying to offer the Passages model of treatment these days, and I find that very exciting because it means the treatment is evolving after being stagnant for 75 years. It's a new day and a new way.”

#### **About Passages Malibu & Passages Ventura:**

Founded by Chris Prentiss and Pax Prentiss, Passages Malibu opened in 2001 with its second location, Passages Ventura, opening in 2009. The two drug and alcohol abuse treatment centers offer an alternative to the 12-step/AA model of addiction treatment by taking a holistic approach with a program that focuses on the underlying issues of substance dependency, rather than suggesting that addiction is an incurable disease. Passages Malibu and Passages Ventura have earned the coveted JCAHO (Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) accreditation, which has only been given to 6% of the nation's behavioral health treatment programs. The co-founders are also authors of the acclaimed series of treatment books that include their groundbreaking flagship book, “The Alcoholism & Addiction Cure.” At Passages, we believe: Addiction Ends Here.

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