



# Recalculating

## Reflecting the glow of recovery from Starlight at Tamassee

By Jon Holland, CEO of Tamassee DAR School



When I first learned to drive, cell phones were in shoulder bags, and we had never dreamed of GPS apps on handheld devices. Instead, when I had to go somewhere I had never been before, I logged onto the Map Quest website and printed directions. Then I drove with directions in one hand and reset the odometer after every turn to make sure I could track the mileage between legs of the trip. It was easy to forget to press the odometer switch or just miss a turn; then I had to backtrack to figure out my mistake.

Needless to say, we're all immensely grateful for GPS apps, and as annoying as the "recalculating" announcement from our phone can be, it's much easier to instantly know I missed a turn than to spend a seemingly interminable amount of time trying to figure out where and how I went wrong.

What a poignant picture of how we live our lives, especially for those who have dealt with an addiction. When we've survived early trauma, we are often left feeling like we don't know where we're going in life or how to get there. Then along the way, we make the

wrong turn into an addictive substance or behavior and all too soon we feel lost, hopeless to find our way back onto the right path.

Step 3 of the 12 Steps of recovery says, “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.” When we take this step, it’s like realizing a smartphone has been in our pocket all along, just on silent. There has been a voice telling us, “Recalculating,” but we simply weren’t listening. The God who cares for us knows the right turns to take in life. He’s followed us down the dead end of addiction and is ready to lead us back to the road to fullness of life.



When we take Step 3, we start listening to the inner voice – the voice of God – speaking uncommon wisdom and directing our path. Not only do we listen, but we must also follow. We turn our will over to God’s guidance moment by moment and day by day. Following our own directions got us lost, and now it’s liberating to have someone so incredibly loving and smart telling us where and when to turn. As we listen to the voice telling us to recalculate, we find the road home – the road to freedom, peace, and joy.

At Starlight at Tamassee, we believe mothers can make the decision to follow God’s direction in life and discover the path to lasting wholeness. Then they can teach their children to listen to the still, small voice of God in their lives and skip the detours and dead ends of addiction. To learn more about Starlight, visit [www.starlight.tdarschool.org](http://www.starlight.tdarschool.org), or contact us at [starlight@tdarschool.org](mailto:starlight@tdarschool.org) or 864-944-1390. If your church or civic group is interested in a presentation on recovery, contact Jon Holland at [jholland@tdarschool.org](mailto:jholland@tdarschool.org).

