**Larry**

Larry grew up in a middle class neighborhood in Queens as part of a close family. His father was an engineer and his mother was a homemaker. As Larry became a teenager, his father had to travel frequently for work and Larry started to feel very lonely. As a result, he began hanging out with a gang from a nearby area and was pressured to use drugs and alcohol. He became an addict at a very young age.

As an adult, Larry held a job for a number of years until he could no longer cope with his addiction. Unemployed, he could not pay his rent and traded his last belongings on drugs and alcohol. Surprised at how things had gone out of control so rapidly and too ashamed to ask his family for help, he found himself homeless, living on the street and in shelters.

Larry was ultimately referred to Oak Hall, BCHS’ permanent, supportive housing residence. All on site, he was able to work with the Oak Hall Substance Abuse Counselor, attend Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings regularly, and enroll in computer skills training. He shared a living suite with six other men, and began to play cards and dominoes, and discuss sports and politics late into the night. Oak Hall quickly became Larry’s community—exactly what he had been craving since his teenage years—and he truly began to thrive.

Larry has been sober for more than seven years now. He is well respected among the other Oak Hall residents, often organizing events and community activities; he has a successful and mature long-term relationship; and he has been commuting to a full-time job in Manhattan, recently earning a promotion.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Why did Larry lose his job?
   1. His company went out of business
   2. His addiction was out of control
   3. He didn’t have transportation
2. Read this sentence from the passage. “Oak Hall quickly became Larry’s community-exactly what he had been craving since his teenage years-and he truly began to thrive.” Why does the author include it in the passage?
   1. To show the reader that Larry still has problems.
   2. To show the reader that Larry is reliving his teenage years.
   3. To show the reader how a community service has helped Larry.
   4. To show the reader what can happen when someone is addicted to drugs.