I grew up in a chaotic family household, and by the age of 11 I found out what drugs and alcohol were. From the first time I used substances, I fell in love with them. I wanted to do them every day, because they filled the hole in my life to make me feel okay. By the time I was 13 my parents had done an intervention with me, my friends, and my cousin who was in recovery from using meth. Her story did not scare me, and it did not make me want to stop. It made me want to try other drugs and experiment with other things that I was not already doing. By age 14 I was living with my drug dealer boyfriend, skipping school, doing cocaine, and trying psychedelics. The more drugs I tried, the more I fell in love with being anything but sober. From the time I was 14 to 18 there weren’t many times I can remember being sober. I was starting to fail classes, ruin relationships with my friends, and burning the relationships with my family to the ground. When I was a senior in high school, I crashed my car into a semi-truck and ended up rolling my car. This put me in the hospital and landed me in trouble with the law when I received an aggravated DUI and reckless driving. I barely graduated high school and did not have much of a plan for my life after that. In July I got sober once I was put on probation and applied to go to UNO. I was excited that they had a recovery community because I was terrified to come to college and be sober. For that year on probation, I went to a few CRC events and got introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous. At the end of my probation, I ended up relapsing for the next 5 months, but when I wanted to get sober for myself, I knew where to come back to. Because of my previous experience at the CRC, I knew where to go to AA at and I knew that I needed to find a sponsor and work the steps. I have now been sober for a year, and my life has dramatically changed. I was accepted into the school of social work, and I am in school to be a therapist for youth struggling with mental health and addiction. I am working here at UNO as a student worker for our recovery community. The recovery community has provided me with many opportunities of service, such as starting meetings on campus on Wednesday evenings, and getting students trying to get sober connected to people within our community who have experience with getting sober. The recovery community has also provided me with lifelong friendships to people who are growing in the same way that I am, and that are focused on their academics while also having to focus on their recovery. Being in college while recovering is not easy, but with support from the CRC and others who have the same experiences it can make the hard things a little easier. I am forever grateful for the CRC, what it has done for me, and for the continued support I receive from Mark and the other members. The CRC is a vital role for students who are pursuing higher education while also trying to better themselves in whatever their recovery looks like.