



JO-ANN BARNAS/Detroit Free Press

**Al Haskins Sr., 60, left, and pal Jerrold Brooks, 57, both of Detroit, use the Tigers as inspiration to stay clean and off alcohol and drugs.**

Al Haskins Sr. and Jerrold Brooks say they're fortunate to have each other as best pals.

Lifelong Detroiters, they cheered on the Tigers together back when they were kids. Today, they root for each other in their continuing treatment to overcome substance abuse.

"I've been clean for nine months," said Haskins, 60, citing the Detroit Recovery

Project on East Grand Boulevard. "I got caught up in the fast life. It took me a long time to get my life, but since I gave my will to God, I've been better."

Brooks, 57, who lives independently after spending a year at the Christian Guidance Center in Highland Park, said, "Fourteen months sobriety for me. Like the pastor told me, 'It's a blessing to have a chance to live two lives in one. You lived the bad life; now it's time to live the good life.'"

Haskins and Brooks are standing in the concourse near the Tigers' 1980s and '90s display below a "Michigan and Trumbull" sign.

Haskins is attending the game compliments of Brooks, who received two free tickets from a friend.

"This team here is working like a fine machine," Brooks said. "I feel like they have a chance to go all the way."

"I'm excited to see the turnaround of the team."