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## **Gambling addict shares story to inspire others**

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By Sean Muserallo - [email](#)

ROCKFORD, Ill. (WREX) - Melynda Litchfield is used to helping patients as a nurse.

But in April 2012, she found herself needing help. She was addicted to gambling.

"It's real people. Real professional people. Real people with families that get caught up in gambling," said Litchfield in front of a crowd at Just Goods, a fair trade market store in Rockford.

She explained her efforts in seeking treatment and the difficulty she found fighting the disease in a society.

Litchfield said she eventually found purpose in telling her story.

She told the crowd the predatory practices of legalized gambling can hinder a gambling addict's recovery.

She is partnering with Stop Predatory Gambling, based in Washington D.C., to spread her message as national victims advocate.