



LIZZIE

Background: Lizzie walked into our new shelter in Manchester the first night it opened, introducing herself with these words: "I've been homeless for three years! I've been waiting for this opportunity, and I really just want a safe place to have a bed."

When Lizzie was really young, her parents separated and mom took off. Lizzie lived with her dad until she was 7, when he was incarcerated. She moved through several foster homes and then group homes. When she aged out, she ventured out on her own.

Eventually, Lizzie decided to try to track down her birth mom on social media to see if they could reunify. She hadn't seen her since she was 5. At age 18, she re-connected with mom, but it wasn't how she imagined it would be. Shortly after, Lizzie was on the street, living in a tent, alone in the world.

Help from Waypoint: Lizzie came to our drop-in center to fulfill her basic needs and discovered our new shelter that is specifically designed for young people like her. It provided the level of stability she needed in order to figure out her next steps.

Where to from there: A few weeks ago, Lizzie moved out of the shelter and into her own apartment. Staff helped outfit her with what she'd need to make it feel like home. Lizzie continues to connect with us to access clothes, food, and to do her laundry. As well, she gets ongoing emotional support. All of this helps prevent a relapse into homelessness. Lizzie is now holding her own, with a little help along the way, and is positioned to start thinking about her future.