



RILEY

Background: Riley felt sorry that she couldn't help her mom, whose addictions gripped her through most of Riley's young life. Riley doesn't know who her father is, and neither does mom. When Riley turned 18, she and her mom became homeless, splitting up to make it easier to couch-surf.

Help from Waypoint: Riley found her way to Waypoint by hearing about it from word on the street. She came here to get her basic needs met, including showers, food, and laundry, and on cold days--to get warm. Riley was one of the first young people to stay at Waypoint's new overnight shelter in Manchester. In her time here, she engaged in case management and worked hard to gain stability. She used the computer lab to apply for jobs, and got clothes to wear to her interviews. She also got lots of encouragement from staff and fellow youth who all rooted for her to succeed. She would race back from interviews to tell anyone at the center about them and get their opinions on whether they thought she answered the questions well. It was the kind of thing a young person typically shares with a parent, but with youth experiencing homelessness, often, they're in that seat.

Where to from here: Riley is close to getting housing and is serious about standing on her own two feet. Then, she intends to reach out to help her mom get back onto hers. Meanwhile, Riley is also looking into business classes at a local college and feels she now has a clearer pathway to her future.