



Part Two

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Shhh...he's sleeping



Welcome to Will's Serial, Part Two. It's a five part story about a MoveFwd client. We will tell you his story as our staff saw it unfold. Follow Will (not his real name) as we approach Minnesota's **Give to the Max Day on November 17**. (If you missed Part One of Will's Serial, you can find "Wait...even the towel?" [here](#).)

One of our case managers entered the Drop-in Center and a MoveFwd volunteer stopped her in her tracks, "**Shhh...he's sleeping.**" Will returned to the Drop-in Center almost daily and became so comfortable he regularly took afternoon naps on our sofa. It's hard to sleep soundly when you're homeless and spending chilly nights in your car. Will told us he sleeps with one eye open because, "you never know who might be looking in the windows." It warmed our hearts to know that he felt safe and could rest at drop-in. When he left, he had eaten and was clean. Our staff was concerned, though, to know that, with a waiting list for our Housing Program and no shelters in our area, his car was probably his best short-term option.

Unlike the average suburban kid, this young man in his early 20s told us he "hates weekends," because a day off work means he has nowhere to go. Even among homeless young people, everything is relative and Will was lucky to have a car. Our case managers helped him consider places where he could go when he wasn't working, like local libraries. We helped him fill out our application for the MoveFwd Housing Program, but we had a waiting list, so we gave him a donated pillow, a blanket and a coat to help make his car a little more comfortable while we worked on finding safe housing for him.

Young people like Will remind us every day that MoveFwd provides a critical safety net to young people in crisis. We serve teens and young adults until their 25th birthday. We help them stay safe and we support them in finding success in society - as students, employees and neighbors. Homeless young people don't have to do it alone.

At MoveFwd, our case managers are resourceful, action-oriented and well connected to partner agencies. They know how to spot a drop-in visitor in crisis and they can juggle priorities. They will drive a young person to get a Social Security number. They will help young people find apartments near their jobs. They can teach newly independent young people how to manage a budget. They'll coach a young renter on setting boundaries so friends won't harm relationships with neighbors or the landlord. Case managers will text back with, "Great job! Congratulations!" when a client is excited about getting an A on a test. Our case managers work with MoveFwd counselors to make sure homeless kids' mental health is cared for, too. They're skilled professionals with big hearts and they're determined that all young people deserve to be safely housed, well-fed, well-educated and employed.

Minnesota's Give to the Max Day is coming up soon. We hope you'll follow Will's story over the next few weeks to find out how MoveFwd case managers and counselors helped him navigate homelessness. Please visit our website movefwdmn.org to learn more about our free counseling and case management services. [Donate now](#) to help young people like Will or wait until Give to the Max Day.



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