



## Part Four

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### Waiting is hard, but I'm hopeful.



Welcome to Will's Serial, Part Four. It's a five part story about a MoveFwd client. We are telling 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** next week. (If you missed Parts One, Two and Three of Will's Serial, you can find "[Wait...even the towel?](#)" "[Shh...he's sleeping](#)" and "[I want to make sure there's enough for the other kids](#)" here.)

The longer our counselors and case managers knew Will, the more he trusted and shared with them. We learned the reason he refused to stay in shelters was because older homeless men propositioned him. He also confided that it's not uncommon for men to offer homeless young people a place to sleep in exchange for sex. It's hard for homeless young people to not "look homeless" among their more affluent suburban peers. His job was going well and he felt more confident to know that the MoveFwd Drop-in Center provided a shower where he could get cleaned up. Thanks to the donated food at drop-in and his recent visits to the local food shelf our case managers helped him find, we noticed that he wasn't as thin as when we first met him.

Will's application for our Housing Program was submitted and approved. His full-time job helped him demonstrate that he possessed the maturity, grit and potential to handle renting his own place. He met all the criteria and was first on our waiting list. Our housing program supports young people for 18 months. While we wish we could offer more qualified young people this opportunity, our capacity is limited by donations and grants. So it was his turn to wait until one of our Housing Program clients "graduated" and started paying 100% of the rent on his or her own. In typical fashion, Will faced the wait list with guts and optimism: "**Waiting is hard, but I'm hopeful.**" While he waited, he hunted for an apartment close to his job.

We looked forward to seeing him as a leader on our MoveFwd Housing Program Council, comprised of other Housing Program clients who want to advise our agency on possible ways to constantly improve. The young people who are clients in our Housing Program form a "family" of their own, too. They get together at our Drop-in Center to share holiday meals and meet for counseling groups to compare how they succeed in managing early independence. Things like budgeting, establishing boundaries with friends who want to live with them, self care and cooking tips are some of the easier topics. Helping them care for their mental health is always a top priority.

We're happy this great young man found MoveFwd. And we're grateful for the donors who help these young people who are so filled with potential. It's a privilege to work with them and you make it possible. Larger donations mean we can help more kids in crisis. Please visit our website [movefwdmn.org](#) to learn more, then click the "DONATE" button! We also love gift cards (gas stations, grocery stores, big discount stores) and bus passes for our supply closet to help kids like Will.

Minnesota's Give to the Max Day is next week. We hope you'll read Will's story next week to find out how MoveFwd case managers and counselors helped him navigate homelessness. Please visit our website for more information about our free counseling and case management services. [Donate now](#) to help young people like Will, or wait until Give to the Max Day.



MoveFwd (Formerly Teens Alone)  
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