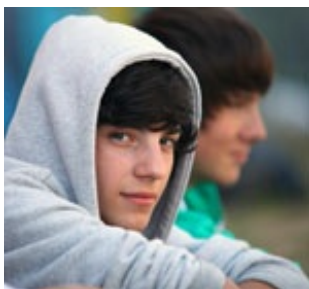




Part Three

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I want to make sure there's enough for the other kids.



Welcome to Will's Serial, Part Three. 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 Parts One and Two of Will's Serial, you can find "[Wait...even the towel?](#)" and "[Shh...he's sleeping](#)" here.

Will became a regular at the MoveFwd Drop-in Center. He built relationships with our case managers and volunteers. Like many of the young people we serve, the more we learned, the more we admired him. Most "kids" from our suburbs don't have to be that brave at 20 years old. Think about a young person in the cocoon of college or still living at home compared to a young man sleeping all alone in his car. Will was often hungry when he showed up at the Drop-in Center. We learned that even though he's working full-time, he often runs short on funds for food because he sends money to his mom from every paycheck. Young people may be homeless for lots of reasons. Will was still connected to his mom, but she's far away. So we were all inspired when, after he'd ravenously devoured his first serving, he turned down seconds, telling our volunteer, **"I want to make sure there's enough for the other kids."**

Will possessed all the qualities we look for in a MoveFwd Housing Program candidate, and we knew he belonged in the program when he said, "I'm going to need some help with budgeting." He may be young and alone, but, like one of our case managers said, "He knows what he doesn't know." Our case managers work with housing program clients to learn budget skills in addition to cleaning, cooking and being a good neighbor. We start out paying their rent. We support them with counseling and case management as they step up their rent payments and after 18 months, they're responsible for 100% of their rent and have learned a lot about independence.

Will's manners and sweet disposition made it less than obvious that he was dealing with both anxiety and depression. Because our services are integrated, it was natural for the case managers he knew from our Drop-in Center to refer him to one of our counselors for help. MoveFwd offers free masters-level counseling to young people experiencing homelessness, depression and anxiety. All young people are welcome. We've provided counseling to young people with chemical abuse problems, abandonment, trauma, gender identity issues, young men and women "coming out" and young parents. Many of these issues co-occur with depression and anxiety. We are judgment-free. We want to be the place where kids in crisis feel safe. Sometimes MoveFwd clients make their own appointments, but many of them are referred by nurses, counselors, teachers and coaches at their schools. Parents are welcome to be the first call, too. Our first goal is always to help families stay together. When that's not possible, our goal is to help kids stay safely housed, employed and in school.

Minnesota's Give to the Max Day is coming up soon. We hope you'll follow Will's story over the next two 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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