

I would like to share Sierra's Story. The family came into our program this past June 2016. At Stepping Stones Ministries we just want to show our families there's hope and the love of Christ.

Just six months ago I had the freedoms of a teenager my age. I could go out with friends and be able to come home to family to socialize and eat dinner. I could of also stayed home while everyone else left to study in silence. However, life changes easily and my family fell into a difficult situation. After having lost our residence due to unfortunate circumstances, my family of six had to stay in a homeless shelter. The idea of it made my stomach drop and I remember the first night there that I hadn't even cried because I was so numb on the situation. It wasn't until I came to terms with the fact that we were all going to be staying in a room with three beds and a cot for an unknown amount of time that it had hit me. We had strict rules to follow, including a dinner at 4:30, which I'm sure sounds a little unreasonable to more people than just I. My eighteenth birthday is right around the corner and seeing many friends move on after high school and hang out before adulthood really takes hit was very troubling for me. I didn't have the freedom to do what I wanted. Things got really rough but there's always light at the end of the tunnel. We met a man named Jim, a pastor at a church in a very small town I hadn't even heard of until then. He helped my family immensely and invited us to attend service. Let it be known that prior I have never been a religious person. I had faith but it was very dim and discouraging at times. This challenging experience in my life has shown a new perspective and my faith is renewed. I feel like a different person with God in my life. Jim had introduced us to Stepping Stones and told us of how the program could be our way to get back on our feet and become independent again. I believe that God works in mysterious ways. He doesn't always give you what you want in the way that you believe he would, but with faith everything happens with time. With Stepping Stones, we are now in a house where everyone is comfortable and safe. We have the space to be together but separate; anyone with a larger family will surely get what that means. I am very blessed for this program and everyone involved. Life has changed for the better.