


January, 22, 2008

My Autobiography

My name is Wendy, I am 20 years old and I was born in Brampton and raised in Mississauga. I moved to Toronto about 2 years ago and at that time I lived Downtown at Covenant House Shelter. Becoming homeless left me with the option of going to the shelter or living on the streets. The shelters in Brampton and Mississauga were defiantly not the types of shelters that I wanted to be in. I went to Covenant House because I had heard about it from one of my friends. Going to that shelter is what brought me here to Toronto. I now live at Second Base Youth Shelter and it is a pretty relaxing type of environment. There is less pressure from the staff towards the residents and the rules are very easy.

In my younger years I used to live with my Mom and my Uncle, who was my Dad's brother. My Dad left my Mom when I was 6 years old because he "apparently" caught her cheating on him with his own brother, my Uncle. It's sort of messed up if you think about it, but my mother is NOT a bad person at all. Yes, she made her mistakes, but she always showed me love and that's what I needed. My Uncle was a big time alcoholic. He mostly loved his beer and his brandy. Everyday he would drink so much that I honestly think it got to his head because he started hitting me, my brother and my sister. Then he started with the harsh beatings. Those were the bad memories of my Uncle, but there are lots of good memories of him. Even though he hit, and beat us, we all still loved him for his generosity and care that he gave us while we lived with him. At the age of 12 my Uncle passed away from a liver disease which caused all failure to his system. From that day on life changed a lot. Everything was so different. I miss my Uncle very much, but everybody has to go at some point. R.I.P Uncle Paul. I left my Mom's when I turned 13 and moved in with my Dad. Well let's just say that that was the biggest mistake of my life. My Dad went out one day when I was 14 and he never came back for 2 months. My school found out that I had no guardian so they called Children's Aid Society and I was sent to a foster home. By the time I turned 16 I was allowed to leave and moved in with a lady I knew. From there, I moved all over the place. I was a quiet and timid person before, but from living in shelters and having to hold my own from 12 – 20 years old, I



have become more open these days. I'm going to finish my last credit and a half by doing this course and I am very excited about finishing high school and being able to go to college. I want to get into Landscaping and if I go to college I know I will have a better opportunity to get a job in Landscaping.

I can't wait to get my place with my boyfriend. It's my biggest dream right now. I'm going to go far in life; I'll push myself if I have to.

My boyfriend is finished his GED and he did very well on it. He is now looking for an Apprenticeship job. He wants to find one in plumbing, but if he can't he will find something else. We are helping each other through everything so that we can get out of the shelter quicker and have a great life together. We have been together for about 1 year and 2 months. I know this will work out because he is the most amazing guy that I have ever been with and he shows me love, care and affection all the time.

Well that's pretty much all I have to say about myself, but it's not too hard to figure me out. All I know is I am motivated to do my work in school, finish as fast as possible, without rushing anything and get a great mark.

Thank you so much to Paul and Alison for giving me this amazing opportunity to finish my high school! Yes! I can finally get my diploma and move on in life to a better life. That makes me a happier person.

