

## ***LAURIE'S STORY***

***Laurie lives in a community care facility in an urban centre.***

I don't know how old I am . . . the same age as my boyfriend, in my forties. I moved in here in June. Before I lived in the country (*in a community-care facility*) What do I do? I go out and I watch T.V. and I talk with others here. Sometimes I walk to the mall and sometimes I walk around the mall, when it's cold. I don't have any place to go and work. The government cut me off. No more money. I used to do cooking at the workshop and everything else - cleaning up. I went every day. I liked it, but (now there's) no money. They cut me off. They did that when I moved to the country from Pam's place in town. I don't know why they cut me off. They are not saying anything to me. I said, "O.K. You're not talking to me. That means sit down at home do nothing". Make me bored. I go to the Mall. Look around....and come back home...and....

Before this place I lived in the country. I've also lived in a group home and in the boarding home with Pam. Didn't like that (*Laurie means the boarding home*). A long story on that! We don't want to get into that. The place in the country was too far away from town.....and David (*her boy friend*).

My favourite place is this place. People are nice and kind. Everybody goes in and out. That feels like it's busy. I'm happy where I'm at. I go for a walk every day. I don't bowl any more. That was with the workshop on Tuesday night ...but I got cut off.

Pam's place? No, thank you. Too much bossing and growling at me all the time (about) what time I'm coming in and what time I'm going out, things like that. And here I have my own key to get in and out all the time.

At Pam's place I couldn't have guys visit. One time my boyfriend's brother was there and Pam looked out the window and saw him there with the car. She got

mad with me and I said “O.K. I’m not living with you, Pam”.

Here I can go for a walk anytime. I can’t make my own snacks but that doesn’t bother me too much. I have my own phone and my boyfriend can visit. I can stay up and watch T.V. as long as I want. I have my own room.

I don’t have an advocate but I have friends through People First. I could talk to the woman who runs this place if I had problems where I am at. My mother is in a place in town. I can visit her. Yes, there’s a cat here. The cat get in the bird cage!

On holidays I go to see my friends or stay home.

I would like to get back to the workshop. But the government cut me off and I’m getting nowhere.

I’ve moved around a lot. I would like to be settled.

I like this place because more people who go out with me and walk in the night-time. In the country we went nowhere. I’m happy when I can go out. I like the town more. (There’s) more room to do things with my boyfriend.

I’ve never had my own key before. That makes me happy.