



When Monica came to Anchor House her family situation was extremely chaotic. After her mother passed away when she was only ten years old, Monica was placed under the care of a new guardian without the companionship of her sisters to help keep her grounded. Monica soon learned that her guardian would often become verbally abusive towards her and Monica longed for a better living situation. Eventually Monica grew tired of being verbally abused on a daily basis and came to Anchor House looking for help.

While at Anchor House, Monica participated in the program's various groups that helped her to build her self-esteem and learn how to express anger appropriately. Anchor House also provided a supportive, safe place for her to reside and receive counseling while a family member was in the process of getting custody of her. Monica received support from the staff and other residents during this uncertain period of her life and also learned new life skills. After a few weeks, Monica received the news that her family member had gotten custody of her and she left Anchor House to go to a stable, loving home.

Monica is currently doing very well. She still returns to Anchor House occasionally to attend the groups and talk with staff. When talking with her, it is apparent that she is much happier and she talks with great enthusiasm about her supportive new home.

Prior to entering the program, EW reported that he was a marijuana user and struggled with managing his anxiety and developing and implementing the life skills he needed to live independently. He said, "I really didn't want to do anything". He said that if he didn't come to the Anchorage, he would have followed the crowd. He decided to go left when everyone else went right. Since moving into Anchorage, EW has been drug free.

The Cory Golis Scholarship that he received last summer helped him to get motivated to look for a job and start working. Anchor House's YAC (Youth Advisory Council) kept him busy doing things in the community, while learning about leadership and advocacy. He's learned to speak to groups of people about YAC and Anchor House and how it helps the community. He said that his comfortability with this is still a work in progress.

EW was stalled as to what to do next when he entered the program. Anchorage helped him realize what vocation he is drawn to and what curriculum. With that in mind, after receiving the Cory Golis Scholarship, he enrolled in the Veterinary Assistant Program at the Animal Behavior College. EW has developed a support group for himself that provides positive friends. EW has grown somewhat closer to his family. He said that he has become more willing to help others without receiving anything in return.

EW feels good about leaving in April. He expressed that he will be working, saving money and doing his classwork.