



## Brian - All Hope Lost

From a small town in northern Ohio, Brian had the best intentions and was determined to make a better life after a childhood filled with abuse and anger. Brian struggled with ADHD and was bullied for being different. He became withdrawn and acted out as a result of being unable to manage his feelings. He was on many medicines, but lacked the support of his family to help him learn how to cope. Brian didn't give up and graduated from high school with the goal of getting a good job. He only wanted to create a better life, but this was very difficult as he lacked resources and a support system. Brian looked for jobs everywhere in his town and neighboring areas. Without a college degree or reliable transportation, and limited opportunities, he couldn't find a job. So, like many without anyone to turn to or opportunities for a college education, Brian ended up homeless at just 18 years old.

For 9 years, Brian wandered from place to place without enough food and clothes. Eventually, he had to go to a shelter, but found it impossible to cope without a private space. With the help of different agencies, he finally found his home at Tender Mercies. Brian, now 27 years old and full of hope, has regained stability and a more positive outlook because of Tender Mercies support for the past 3 years. Brian's favorite thing is "having a key to my own room, being secure and getting the support I need to work on my goal of moving into my own apartment near my family."

**"Tender Mercies works hard and really helps people get back on their feet. They make sure I get counseling, healthy meals, and a nice, private room to relax and recover."**