

Homelessness Week 2019

Life Changing Stories

I live in a small country town with my teenage children, I became homeless in December 2018. It wasn't a choice, it was accumulated circumstances. Sometimes things spiral out of control and you find yourself in a situation you have no power over, that was me! I found myself without a secure roof over my head, I could have "couch surfed" but with children that was never going to be an option.

In a small town homelessness is not considered to be something that happens, people do not believe it is even a possibility. I can tell you it is, I lived it. I think that people just are not aware enough or it isn't their problem so it isn't happening, December 2018 for me was not a time I want to repeat.

I struggled, circumstances led me to a place in life where I hadn't been before. Quite frankly I was probably one of those people that sat in my cosy house and thought "it isn't my problem", I know now it is my problem, it was my problem, my head is now well and truly pulled out of the sand.

The hardest thing for me at that time was not knowing how or where to get help, I was staring into the reality of living in my car with my dependent children, nothing is more real than that possibility or scarier. I lucked out in a very long winded way, meaning it took me a long time to find the answers.

I was able to find somewhere short term to stay with the help of people that I really didn't know existed, though it was a short term roof over mine and my children's head it was the start on the road of recovery. I was able to breathe again, I was able to look toward to the future and believe there was one in sight. To many that may not seem much but to me that was like the darkness had lifted and the light was slowly filtering back in, I had options again.

No one other than those that live it would understand what being HOMELESS truly feels like, it isn't a choice. It wasn't a choice I had made, it was never going to be long term if I could do anything about it. I just needed for someone to turn me around and point me in the right direction, I was lucky and those people were there and they did help me. I will forever be grateful.

I was able to slowly get back up and put one foot in front of the other, with help and the resources I was able to move forward and put a roof over our heads, food in our bellies. Things we take for granted until we don't have them anymore, I won't lie and say it was easy because it wasn't. I still struggle but now I know I have those people in my corner, I know I can keep pushing forward one step at a time.