

June Waiting List Story- Meet Anastasia*



My name is Anastasia and I'm 20 years old. I came to the United States when I was very small. My mom adopted me from Russia and I came home to live with my mom and older brother. When I was about 4 years old, my mom realized I wasn't doing all of the things other kids were, so she took me for some testing.

We found out I have some developmental delays, so my mom came up with a plan. I worked with therapists and tutors. I worked really hard all the time! I worked so hard that I was keeping up with many of the kids my age. My mom saw a really bright future for me.

When I was 13, I was able to be home alone for short periods. One day when I had a break from school, someone came to my house and hurt me. That day changed my life. All of the developmental issues I had kept at bay with my hard work came flooding back, along with a host of new emotional and social needs.

As I got older, things kept getting harder. I felt like I needed to run, so sometimes I would run away and get lost. I would go through great times at school where I could show of what a smart and talented girl I am. Then I'd cycle through some really hard times when I couldn't go to school at all.

When I was a teenager, my mom and doctors started to hospitalize me at times when I was having a crisis. This was having to happen more and more. Last fall I ended up running away all the way to Baltimore overnight which really scared my mom.

Since then, I've been living at a mental health-focused hospital and am getting ready to think about leaving. My mom is smart and savvy and she only heard about Medicaid Waivers recently when we'd already been through years of crisis and could have been eligible back when I was four and got diagnosed.

Now we wait. It isn't really safe for me to come home and I am running out of places to go. Without a Waiver to pay for staff support and open some options, we are left feeling scared.

I would like you to remember that each of the more than 11,000 people on the Waiting List have a story and need your help.

You can change their futures, too! Please fund the waiting list for Waivers! End the wait, start a life.

*Name changed at the request of the family