



# Whitli's Story

Maintaining a job has never been a problem for Whitli, a single mother of three. But maintaining healthy relationships has been. Family discord and personal conflicts brought her and her kids to homelessness.



Back in 2013 after an ended relationship, Whitli left her children in the care of an aunt. She travelled to Arizona to stay with her sister and focus on earning some money. Within a few days she found work, but squabbles arose in the household, and she had to abandon that plan.



Back in Illinois with the children, Whitli was put out of an apartment because her kids couldn't get along with the children of a roommate. This brought her to ICM, but even that blew up after a few months when Whitli found herself arguing with staff and unable to get along. She left the facility and continued in a pattern of maintaining employment but losing housing.

In June of 2016, out of resources, she again turned to ICM. This time Whitli was surprised to be asked to give up the one thing she thought she had going for her: her job. "I gave two weeks notice at my nursing home CNA job a month into being here. It was hard getting back and forth, my car breaking down.... Mr. Payne thought I was putting too much on myself."

Whitli took ICM classes, beginning with one entitled 'Safe People.' "A lot of my problem was how I picked people. My family was dysfunctional and I didn't have any real friends. Now, I do. Brie (shelter supervisor) is my best friend."

As she becomes more stable in her ability to relate to others, Whitli attends classes that will train her to be a medical assistant--a job with duties similar to an LPN. "I've always done medical work," she says. "I'd like to work in a doctor's office and take continuing education in the future."

"I am so grateful for ICM," Whitli says. They have helped me so much with myself and growth and understanding. My kids are doing wonderful in school.... Christmas was awesome. I don't know the last time someone bought me a gift. And seeing my kids faces just light up because of what people had done for them...."