

Here's an example of a story (as told by a person on the waiting list):

My name is Danielle Coholich. I had a birthday this year; I am 22 years old. I can't go to school anymore. I have to wait. My mom says there is a list, so I don't have anywhere to go. I want to learn to do stuff by myself. I write songs. I have friends. My mom drives me places and picks me up. I have a telephone to call my friends but I do not have a job because I do not have someone to show me what to do. I sit in my room and write songs or watch TV. I wait for my grandpa or my mom to come home from work and take me to see my friends, go to the gym to work out or go to McDonalds. I want to learn to do something. I do not want to wait and wait and wait. I like to help people, but sometimes people are not nice. They don't talk nice. They laugh and can be mean. My mom says that we have to pray for those people that are not nice and wait for good things to happen. I want to work and help people; I want to make my own money to spend; I want to do stuff by myself. But I have to wait...every day wait, wait, wait. I do not spell everything right, but I can do better when somebody helps me or shows me what to do. I love everybody and just want to do things myself. I want to make money so I can buy things for myself. Can somebody help me so I don't have to wait and wait? My mom works really hard but she can't make people hurry to help me. She tries but I don't want to wait anymore. I cry a lot. In school I enjoyed going to job sites. I was the best, too. Project REACH taught me to clean up after myself. I would like to work. My mom says I have to wait for Hands for Hire. My dream job would be bagging stuff at Kroger. My mom talked to me about a group home, and I would love it if my mom were close by. Maybe we can vote for somebody who would help us get money to teach us to work. I can't vote. I know I would be a good voter. I am a good worker. My friends and I would have a job and health insurance if the President or somebody gave money to help us get work.

I want to have a future and not just dream about it.

Written by Danielle Coholich, a Project REACH graduate

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