

Following are some stories that the Commission would like to share with you about a few of the students.

C.C. is 18 and a senior this year, although he is struggling to graduate because his dad decided he didn't need to go to school during his sophomore year. C.C. is currently living in the garage of a friend because his dad moved to another state to find work.

J.T. and L.T. are also in high school. They were living with their mother until she remarried a man with younger children. When she remarried, she told the two teens that there was no longer room for them at home, they had to move out. They have been "couch surfing" with different friends.

S.J. and M.H. are both 18 and have been kicked out of their homes because they are "an adult now". They were living in a car, moving it every couple of hours during the night so they wouldn't get in trouble with the law. They are now sharing the living space in a camper that belongs to a relative of a teacher in the district. They are good students and have had no behavior issues, neither of them has a job but both are looking.

As you can see from these few excerpts, many children live in situations that most of us have never imagined. The little kids don't understand that they are living differently than other children. They don't know that other children have their own bed or even their own room. The older students know and prefer to keep their life a secret from their friends until they absolutely can't.

L.G., F.G. and K.G. were dropped off at Grandma's for the weekend . . . in August. They are ages 4, 5 and 6. The two oldest go to school, but Grandma had to find daycare for the youngest and had to increase her work hours to support them. The mother has called since leaving the children, saying she no longer wants to be a parent, so Grandma can keep them.

D.C., a seventh grader, and his mother live in the garage of a friend. He has two siblings, but one lives in Dewey with Grandma and one lives in Prescott with another relative. Mom cannot find affordable housing and there is not room in the garage for all of them.

S.P., a high school student, and his mother are sharing a bedroom in the home of an acquaintance because they needed to leave an abusive situation. Their belongings are stored in several places at friends' houses because Mom cannot find affordable housing.

S.J. and M.H. are both 18 and have been kicked out of their homes because they are "an adult now". Last week they were living in a car, moving it every couple of hours during the night so they wouldn't get in trouble with the law. They are now sharing the living space in a camper that belongs to a relative of a teacher in the district. Both of them are good students and have had no behavior issues, neither of them has a job but both are looking.

T.H. and S.B. are sisters in high school. Their father recently had some serious medical issues and as a result, he lost his job. The three of them are now living with Grandma in a two bedroom apartment. Dad is still looking for another job so that he and his children can move into their own home.

S.M. is a senior whose mother is seriously ill. She spends most days at the hospital receiving intravenous medicine. S.M. is taking care of her in the trailer they are currently living in. His grades are declining, but there is no one else that can help.

R.A. is a special needs preschool student. His mother's whereabouts are currently unknown. She found that drugs and the wrong kind of friends preferable over being a mom. R.A. is living with his grandparents. The grandparents do not have legal custody and have difficulty getting any help because they can't find Mom to sever her rights.

S.L. and her parents were living with her grandparents until recently. They were asked to leave and currently live in a camper in the forest. Although they are able to have heat, water, etc., they must leave every few days to avoid trouble for camping violations.

C.B. is a senior who was looking forward to turning 18 and leaving her verbally abusive household. She hid clothing and personal items at a neighbor's for several months before her birthday. When it finally came, she left with a police escort because she was afraid of her father. She is currently living with another student and her family.

I.A., G.A., and S.A. live in a single wide trailer with their mother, father, younger sibling and two other families. None of the families has been able to find affordable housing so they all live together. Imagine trying to study with 16 people in the house!