



Felicity* grew up with years of neglect and emotional abuse from her mother which became intolerable when her mother refused to accept that Felicity identified as LGBTQ. She came to LifeTies via the child welfare system when she was 16; when admitted to the Group Home, she was quiet, had low self-esteem, rarely participated in activities, and arrived with prescriptions for multiple psychotropic drugs. Felicity expressed that she just didn't "fit in" anywhere and art was an outlet that helped her through the difficult times.

This is where our team stepped in. Our clinical team provided intensive individual and group therapy and clinical assessments. Staff empowered her with life skills training, educational support, taught her how to search for a job and cook nutritious meals. She was introduced to new forms of recreation such as plays, poetry readings, and a trip to New York City. Eventually, she did well in school and the staff realized she was indeed a talented artist.

She was hired for her first job at a retail store, was accepted in to several colleges, participated in her school play and progressed academically and artistically. As she worked through her childhood trauma, her medications were reduced. While reunification with a family member was not possible, after 15 months at LifeTies, she transitioned from our program to live independently to attend community college where she now is thriving.

While Felicity's progress was not linear, without our intervention, Felicity's outcome would have been very different. At LifeTies, we are tenacious and willing to do what it takes in order to fulfill our mission of nurturing wellness and self-sufficiency in vulnerable youth, young adults and their families. We change trajectories.

*The youth's name and image and some details have been changed to protect her privacy.



