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I have known Kevin Price for approximately 5 years, having met him in early 2004. At that time, the young man I knew was grossly obese, suffering from various medical and psychological problems and most often in a drug induced lethargic state that left him unable or unwilling to care for himself. At that time all he cared about was food and listening to music, for him there was nothing else, and no one willing to try and help him make a better life, he was just, existing. The nursing home that had become his residence was content to let him be, continuing to gain weight and offer him no real way to escape the downward spiral of his life.

It was not until Connecticut Legal Services came to his defense that there was even a glimmer of hope. Albeit small, that glimmer of hope gave Kevin and his mom Bette a chance to end their fight with the bureaucratic system that had shut Kevin away to be forgotten about. There is no other way to describe the fact that Kevin was placed in the nursing home to recuperate for a few weeks after a medical problem, only to be left there for several years. That medical problem, by the way, could have been avoided through regular medical care.

Through the tireless efforts of Ms Sandra Trionfini of Connecticut Legal Services, Kevin was finally placed in a community-based residence program with 24-hour staff and clinical behavior support in April of 2008, incidentally recommended by his Neuropsychologist in 2005.

Since that time Kevin has flourished. He has lost a total of 75 pounds through steady exercise and a healthy diet, and no longer requires the twice-daily regime of insulin injections. Many of his other medications have been lowered due to his weight loss.

He has started school through Norwich Adult Education and Sound Community Services, attending school 3 times a week working toward his GED.

He participates in many community programs, enjoys going to the movies, baseball games and walks.

He now has a girlfriend that he regularly sees, and takes on dates.

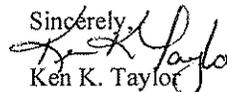
Overall, his life is an actual life, growing and developing as each of us do.

If it were not for the efforts of the Connecticut Legal Services, fighting on behalf of Kevin, and the many forgotten people like him, I have no doubt that Kevin would still be in the nursing home probably worse off and certainly no better.

Kevin's is just one story out of the many people that are in similar situations. Unable to change their circumstance, merely existing because of a state programs that clearly, are not effective. Many do not even have family to fight for them; it took years for Kevin to get justice for his lack of care, even with his mother fighting for him.

Without funding for services such as Connecticut Legal Services, how many people who could have meaningful, productive lives will be forced to spend their lives as Kevin had, with no hope of ever having real lives. How many will remain forgotten in programs that provide inadequate care.

I urge each and every one of you to, for one moment, put yourselves in their position before deciding to cut funding from agencies such as the one that provided a life for Kevin Price.

Sincerely,

Ken K. Taylor