

## Biography of George Siletti

My family put me in foster care at an early age because of my emotional problems. I was in and out of foster homes until the age of 13. I stayed at the boy's home and went to school. I was kick out of school because of my emotional problem. I refused to go to any other school. Since I refuse to go they would not allow me to stay at the boy's home. This all happened at the age of 16. They foster care gave me the option to become an emancipated minor, which means I would be on my own at the age of 16. With no education, no work skills I soon became homeless at the age of 16. I would be homeless for many years trying to find a good job and make enough money for rent. Because of my emotional problems when I did find a job it wouldn't last long.

Many years later still homeless I hitchhiked, usually that how I would get around. I came to Washington DC living homeless in DC for about 6 years. Somebody told me about this place called Friendship Place, an organization that helps homeless people meet their needs such as healthcare and supportive housing. The person also came with me to the first time to help calm my nerves. I found medical care for my emotional problems. They also found me housing so I am no longer homeless and became part of the community in DC. As I continue to receive help for my emotional problems I volunteer my time for the speakers Bureau at Friendship Place and the National Coalition for the homeless. Telling my story of what it's like to be homeless without the support of housing healthcare and employment to students, and organizations who want to hear and learn about homeless so they can help other homeless.