



Arthur describes himself as a "Mountain Man" and enjoys biking, photography, and fixing things. These kinds of Interests often inspire an active hobby in a young adult, but that has not been the case for Arthur, until recently.

Arthur is homeless and has been living and sleeping on the streets for over five years. He has been receiving help from AYR's [Auburn Youth Resources] Homeless Services program for three years and has come to rely heavily on staff for things that many people take for granted. Although basic needs like food and shelter are vital to the quality of life for an individual, there is another reason Arthur keeps returning to AYR. *"The current staff are funny and I can trust them"* Arthur explains. Trust goes a long way when there are no adult mentors in your life that you can depend on and is something AYR believes is first and foremost a priority in the support staff provide.

Being social and interacting with others is just as important as having food and water. Arthur didn't have friends or access to social activities before coming to Auburn Youth Resources. Recently, the Homeless Services program hosted a hike to Greenwater Lakes. Wanting to get away from the city, Arthur signed up right away. He had a chance to bond with all the participants; especially the staff. The highlight of the experience was when he was able to take photos of nature with a phone and where he really got to show how skilled he really was.

The hike opened Arthur's eyes and although hesitant at first, gave him the push to take his relationship with AYR to the next level. *"I want a house and a better life for my future,"* Arthur said. Coming close to aging out of programming, Arthur decided he wanted to receive case management. *"Once I really got to know Arthur I found out he had a lot of hidden talents and is an intellectual and caring individual. He has become quite the helpful young man around our Arcadia shelter,"* said Olivia James, an AYR Case Manager.

Since the hike and connecting with Olivia, Arthur was able to reunite with his grandparents. He now has a place to call home and is helping around the house doing what he loves; fixing things and making them work better. He is still working with a case manager to pursue long term independent living goals and is on his way to achieving his dreams.