

Orville's Story: 20 years old, is presently living with his mother.

Sometimes the disorder of FASD is not good. But you always know within you that it is not your fault.

I love the fact that at my school people understand what I am going through and so far the first couple of days have been excellent here at the new improved building. It's a good workspace with lots of support. Adult Basic Education and Focus are really unique programs. If you don't do well the first time don't be afraid to ask for help.

I used to have a problem with lack of understanding. Teachers don't realize that FAS is a hidden disability and some teachers didn't know I needed extra help. Our teachers are more aware of students with FASD. The doctors told me I had hypertension disorder while I was a kid but I always thought I would grow out of it. Sometimes I still get confused and bored.

I am very proud and honoured that there is a lot of medical attention on birth defects. What I love here in Canada is we still take care of the young and old who suffer from disorders with communities working together in this day and age to help reduce the problem. I know I am changing my ways for the better. FASD makes me get mad a lot of times. FASD makes it hard to budget your money. It's difficult to keep track of your bank account because planning never works out.

Keeping jobs is hard. I was flagging and it was difficult communicating on the radio. I'd let the traffic go and they'd get mad at me. This year I'm hoping to find part time work through the. Focus program.

Last year I attended the Focus program full time. It was helpful in preparing me for Access Program. I have to take time to do my work and I some times need things repeated. I learned about FASD in the Focus class last year and got a better understanding of this common disorder.

With support I'm looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead. I have the potential to do my schoolwork with teacher support and some guidance. I feel comfortable asking questions. The future looks much brighter for me and we'll see where we go from here.

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