

Weathering the Storm

A grandchild, observing her grandmother making her bed, asked, "Grandma, why do you make your bed each morning?" She replied, "It is like a daily birthday present. After a good night of sleep, I wrap my bed up like a pretty gift – tucking in the corners and putting my pillows on top. I am very thankful I have a place where I can sleep, be warm and comfortable. Then each night, as I am ready to crawl into my bed, I 'unwrap' the covers. You see, every morning and every night, I am reminded what a blessing it is to have a bed. I never take this gift for granted."

Imagine a night without a bed to lay your head, stay warm and get a good night's sleep. For Stormie Gonzales, a young woman currently in the New Life Program, she found herself without a bed – without a home. Much of her life has been searching for the comfort of a place to call home.

At the age of 4, due to their mother's drug abuse, Stormie and her brother were put into foster care. She was returned to live with her mom four years later, yet because of family dynamics, her mother sent her to Washington State to live with her aunt. She attended high school there, and soon after graduation Stormie gravitated back to Stockton. With no place to go, she began couch surfing and living on the streets. Her life was tumultuous and complicated.

