

Kimberlee grew up in an upper middle class family in Pleasanton, CA. She demonstrated an early interest in and talent for art, but became involved with drugs while a teenager. Her substance use persisted on and off for the next 20 years. In 2003 Kimberlee became clean and sober but then learned that she was HIV+. This devastating news led to a substance use relapse, and then homelessness.

In 2004 she connected with San Francisco's homeless services program and was able to find and keep housing and support services for her substance abuse. Through LSS services, in March 2004 she was able to find a place to live and stay safely housed while she successfully completed another substance abuse rehab program.

Kimberlee enrolled in the Academy of Art University in January 2004 with the dream of becoming a character animator. With the assistance of an LSS case manager she learned how to budget her limited SSI/SSA funds, including saving. She was recently awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Rehabilitation to pay her tuition at The Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Kimberlee plans to continue working with LSS to help her manage her funds from these grants.

Kimberlee's future looks bright. Her health is good and her HIV is responding well to treatment. She has a projected graduation date of May 2009, and hopes to apply for a job in character animation at Pixar. Her degree from the Academy of Art University and her new skills would qualify her for jobs in character animation for commercials, video games, TV and films.

Kimberlee is one of the nearly 2000 clients served by Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. Your prayers and financial support makes a tremendous difference in their lives!

For more information about Lutheran Social Services, please visit our website at www.lssnorcal.org.

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