



Jennifer Nicole Bird

Jennifer is the middle of five children, and says she's lived the "perfect life." She writes, "In my opinion perfect doesn't mean without problems, perfect means you had a balance between the good and the bad giving you

all the experience you need to deal with life."

Growing up, Jennifer's mother was sick a lot, but she was fortunate to have both a strong, kind, loving mother and father and a close family.

In high school, Jennifer was involved with RARE-T (Reducing Aids Risks Effectively in Teens) and works at the transit center with the Teen P.O.W.E.R. clinic. As part of her job, Jennifer educates teenagers about reproductive health. Jennifer explains as a role model, she tries to reduce racism and sexism and empower teens. She says, "in all of our presentations we empower women with the knowledge we give them."

Jennifer graduated high school in spring 2009 and attends UAA and is still deciding what she wants to study, though currently she's a psychology major. In her spare time, Jennifer loves to read, hang out with friends and family, hiking, watch horror movies, go to local rock concerts, write poetry, and paint.

Jennifer was diagnosed with narcolepsy and writes, "to hear someone tell you you have a condition that you have no control over is terrifying. At first I felt like this was going to ruin my life, but after some self analysis I decided it would make me stronger...I didn't even know how deeply it affected me until they gave me medicine and I wasn't tired anymore. I used to fall asleep in meetings and at school and my friends would laugh at me. I thought that was something I'd always have to live with...Once I felt normal, healthy, and finally happy I understood. I've always told people I would change the world and now I feel I can."