

JDC NEWSLETTER

The Story of My Life:

Past...

- “Life is crazy, my life was hard growing up.”
- “In the past, I was doing good until I had to come here.”
- “I’m from Little Havana, a bad community, and I fell in the wrong crowd and ended up in here.”
- “I met a group of people that wanted to get fast money and smoke weed.”
- “We need more job opportunities for the youth, or we are not going to have joy in life.”
- “Stealing cars, robbing houses, in and out of jail, and went to a program for a year.”
- “Hung out with IGNORANT guys.”
- “I was making bad decisions in my past, and things that I did in the past caught up to me, and it ruined my life.”
- “Ungrateful about my life.”
- “When I was a young boy, my mother and papa worked on a farm and were struggling, so we sold the farm.”
- “There were people communicating, and there were people who didn’t talk their problems out (instead of resulting to violence).”
- “Gun laws should be changed.”
- “Arrested, in constant trouble, smoked [weed].”
- “F/O” [family over others]”
- “Let go of the past and moving on in life, I’m leaving the streets alone and [staying] on task.”
- “Crime, Violence, Drugs.”

TRANSFORMING MY COMMUNITY

This month’s Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring session was dedicated to the topic, “Transforming My Community.” The young men who participated in discussions and writings in this newsletter issue were residents at the Miami Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Together the young men identified a variety of problems and negative circumstances in their communities that they would like to improve. As a higher education community, they wrote about their past and present lives, and how their goals for transforming their communities in the future – after leaving JDC.

Learn the past,
watch the present,
and create the
future.

Jesse Conrad

meeville.com

A CRITICAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

“Police brutality!”

“Police have too much power, and that moved me not [to] like them.”

“I was getting good grades in school, and I was a[n] athlete but started messing up when I got to high school.”

“Leaving the past behind and moving onward. Like stop doing crimes and hanging out in the streets, [so] I can hang out with my family.”

Present...

“I’m locked up.”

“In the present, what I’m doing now, is I’m in the detention center doing good, waiting to get up out of here.”

“I’m currently in DJJ for 21 days just trying to make it to my court date to prove I’m innocent.”

“I’m locked up.”

“Pending direct file for possession of cocaine.”

“Locked up for being at the wrong place at the wrong time.”

“Locked up for my 3rd time, and I’m going to a program soon.”

“Violated my probation, worried about my friends and family, praying for release.”

“Grateful, Confident, Influenced.”

“Now I’m in jail, and I don’t know when I’m getting out, but saying positive and leaving it in God’s hands.”

“There is more reaching with violence than talking it out.”

“Because we should be able [to] carry fire arms, license or no license, because we should be able to protect ourselves.”

“Currently in school, in DJJ, I have restrictions waiting for court.”

“T/T” [trust over trust]

“There is no present.”

“Street, Gangs, Killing! Going to keep the peace.”

“And now I am in DJJ because of the police.”

“I’m going through a little minor setback right now, but I’ll keep praying and fight through it.”

“Sportsmanship”

“Being with Jesus”

“Reading the Bible”

“Going to school every day”

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Future...

“Go back to school [and] play sports.”

“When I get out of here, I’m going home to do good, and do what I got to do. Go to school, chill and do what’s right.”

“When I get out of here, I’ll finish my 12th grade year and go to Florida University in Gainesville.”

“When I get out, I’m going back to school, and try to get a job, and if possible go to college.”

“Get my Master’s degree, and study [to become a] paramedic.”

“Spend time alone and with elderly people. Move out of this community.”

“When I get out, I plan to change all my bad habits and stay out of jail for good! I’m going to make something better for myself, so that I can have a bright and successful future.”

“Close my case and finish my GED classes.”

“Bright, there’s nothing that can’t be accomplished. There’s nothing stopping my goals of being wealthy.”

“I will be very, very, very wealthy and famous and have a lot of friends.”

“Having more people talk about and ending the wave of violence over petty things.”

“In the future, [there] will be less innocent deaths.”

“Finish school, go to college, get a job and a car and get my license. Also stop smoking.”

“O/F [Others and family]

“Getting my education and going back to school to get my diploma.”

“I wanted to see it change by people trusting in God. Going to church every Sunday, seeing people stop killing people for no reason. Go to school every day, get your education. Get your high school diploma.”

“Guns, co-workers, Army”

“Cops”

“Athletes”

“When I get thru all of this, I’ll get a job buy a big house, and die with money in my pockets.”

Opinions/Advice for Transforming My Community...

“Too [many] snitches.”

“Stop the violence.”

“Doing scholarship programs.”

“Shelters”

“Art classes”

“Tutoring”

“Community gathering speeches about community change.”

“I would transform the community by doing politics.”

“If they change the gun laws, and everyone has guns, there will be less robberies, less murders.”

“People used to carry swords with no license; why can’t we carry firearms?”

“Stop stereotyping...more rights.”

“I advise that young kids should stay in school and think before they act. Bad decisions will get you to bad places. Think positive things and do well while you are young so that your future seems bright.”

“Be a leader, not a bystander.”

“Move out of your neighborhood and explore.”

“Hangout with successful people and learn from them.”

Creating an Empowering Culture of Thinking

“Knowledge is power”

“Stay away from ignorant people.”

Past...

(1997-2013) I was a kid without a charge, nothing in my record, playing high school football, making honor roll, playing varsity till 2014—till I got influenced by two kids which changed my life—Drugs, Fight, Licks, Robberies, making money was everything.

Present...

Inmate; ***** nothing but a number, locked up like a caged animal! Only two things: [I] can now make something of my life or [I can go] straight to prison from DJJ! What should I do? Ruin my life? I’m better than that. I’ll become a therapist to help kids like me to never end up like me, [to] make a change.

Future...

Finish high school, go to college, get my masters in psychology, and make a change. Make my parents happy, no more mom going to the doctor for depression because of me, it’s time for me to make her proud of me, and get a job and take care of my mom.

Opinions / Advice for Transforming My Community...

Like Dad says, “Nobody is your friend except for family. Who’s there when you get locked up? Is your home boy going to your crib asking for you?” When I call my homeboy, he gets happy for the moment, tells me, “free me,” and tells everyone but when that phone clicks, that’s it, nothing but a number. My dad was right, “There’s nothing worth more than freedom.” That’s what I want most, more than I want to breathe—“FREEDOM”

E-SToPP & PPLM are looking to grow our community!

You can participate by donating to our GoFundMe campaign,
www.gofundme.com/e-stopsummer

Join us at PPLM meetings, and join E-SToPP’s Board of Directors, Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Board. For more information, visit our Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/estopp.programs

Copies of previous JDC Newsletters can be found on our Facebook page at the albums tab. “Shares” and “likes” are encouraged.



E-SToPP
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