

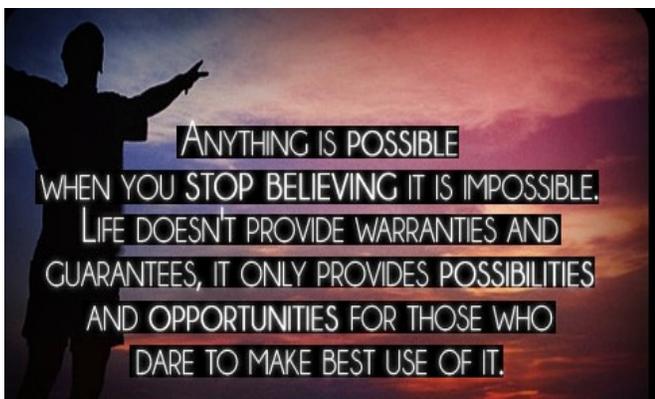
# JDC NEWSLETTER

## An Empowering Culture of Thinking

During this month's Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring (PPLM) sessions, young men residing in Miami-Dade's Regional Juvenile Detention Center wrote poems and stories about life and death. Their writing were modeled after "The Rose That Grew From Concrete" by Tupac Shakur. To become a PPLM volunteer, contact [info@e-stopp.org](mailto:info@e-stopp.org).

### The Grape that Grew from the Cranberry Tree

Did you know about the Grape that grew from the Cranberry tree. It might seem impossible but in God's eyes any and everything is possible. In my life, I thought nothing was possible until God Showed me a way. That's why I am the man I am today.....



### The Life Forces

Life is easy, life is hard.  
Life is weird, life is normal.  
In life people think, people don't.  
In life people die, people live.  
Life I wrote, people rose!

Do you think about life most of the time? Some people do, some people don't. There are a lot of theories [about] life. Because people have many things to say about Life. And many people believe what they believe. That's why I wrote 'The Life Forces' because life is confusing in a way.



### A Good Life that Grew from Hard Times

"Well" my life is filled with pain and suffering but not my soul. So as I started to turn my life around, the pain and suffering started to fade away like ice in a cup in the sun. So what I learned is that no matter how hard times are, keep faith unto yourself.



### The Seed That Grew from a Peach

Did you hear about the seed  
That grew from a peach  
In the tree?  
Having not to water the plant the  
Seed is built with water growing  
Inside the plant.  
The peach seed learned to sprout  
Without sunlight.  
R.I.P. the peach tree that grew without  
Sunlight. No one even visited it.

### The Boy That Grew from the Struggles

In the street there is nothing to gain well.  
See the struggle is nothing but pain. I'm  
Trying to search for the sun but I found the  
Rain. I'm trying to make my mom  
Proud and bring her no shame.

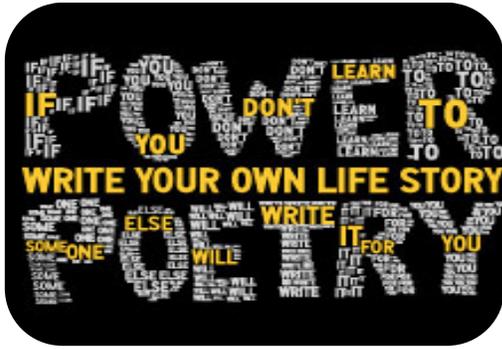
### The Youngen that Grew from the Ghetto

I been through the whole  
Book I wonder sometimes  
Why God has put these  
Great obstacles in my life.  
But I remember every  
Now and then I'm still  
A youngen and I know  
Where I came from and  
Now I realize these  
Streets ain't for  
Everybody. That's why  
I'm gonna be what  
I am supposed to  
Be. I'm tired of  
Waking up to concrete  
Walls and a metal  
Door but it's the  
Consequences of  
Committing crimes.  
That's why I'm  
Gonna make a change.

**The struggle of life  
is one of our greatest  
blessings. It makes us  
patient, sensitive, and  
Godlike. It teaches us that  
although the world is full of  
suffering, it is also full of  
the overcoming of it.**

**By Helen Keller**

## A CRITICAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



### The Life That You Choose

Which side of life would you choose? The bad side or the good? If you choose the bad side, you would end up in jail or dead. If you choose the good side, you would live a peaceful life. If you ask me, I would want to live a peaceful life and have a great family. When I get out of jail this time, I am not going to make bad decisions anymore, and I will try to get a job and keep my mom happy instead of mad all the time. So I will try to keep her happy at all times and when I am a father, I will try to own a business to keep my family happy.

### The Peach That Grew at the Beach

The peach that grew at the beach. The beach  
Was not in place until the peach grew at the beach.  
Anything is possible when  
You look on the bright side of  
When you're in the dark.

## Thankful for Life

### The Man Now Guilty of the Crime

I am guilty of the crime I did and I was in the county jail for 9 months. In jail, I learned my lesson but what I did was not good. I learned that a crime is not good and my life changed. I think that the 9 months I did made me a better man, and I feel like the 9 months I did was good for me. If I did not go to jail, I would've been dead and I thank God I went to jail for 9 months.

### A Man Who Grew Up with an Angry Father

A man who grew up with an angry father never liked his father at all because his angry father never showed his son any respect. He never got his son what he wanted. His dad always beat him when he was a young boy and didn't show his son any discipline. His son did not learn anything at all and every day after school when he arrived, his dad would curse him out for no reason. So his son had a bad life and never liked his father at all. Even when he got older, his son didn't even want to see his own father's face. His son didn't even respect him as the father did not respect him also.

**Special Thanks to** Wayne Rawlins, Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program, Miami-Dade Anti-Gang Strategy Initiative; Dr. Debra Pane, Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline Foundation, Inc. (E-SToPP); Miguel Peña, E-SToPP; Alyssa Soto-Garcia, FIU Intern; Dr. Gladys Negron, Regional Director, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Daryl Wolf, Superintendent, Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center; Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center Staff; Morris Copeland, Director, Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department; Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department Prevention Initiative Staff; Melissa Camacho and Chloe Chabanon-Hicks, Barry University students; Bryan Barrientos, Ivana Rocha, and Arielle Elizee, Florida International University students.