

NextUp Video One
October, 2017

Jordyan: Life before was just very erratic, spontaneous in not a positive way. Because you don't really know who to go to or who to lean on.

Ernesto: Life for me was, it was a journey. My bother being shot six times, three different occasions. My sister, you know, being lost in the system, and not able to find her. It just all became a battle for me you know, just wondering like how can I be who I really was here to be. And I just noticed that I needed my college education.

Mark: You know what, I think one of the best conversations we have with students is what we offer is hope, and that can come in many forms of you know how we treat you when you hit the front door, or is it's not always about just being that foster youth or that tag that we like to give a student. Just like, hey come in, let's see where you're at, let's give you some hope, let's give you some direction and let's see which way it goes.

Ernesto: A lot of things, as far as programs and things that are set up for us, for our population, is not set up for us because it has been set up by someone that has never been through or experienced the foster care system. So when you got youth coming in from being abused, human traffic, neglected, stripped away from their families, you know it's hard for youth like that to come into a program and trust.

Angie: Believing in the student, believing at times when they don't believe in themselves. So I believe this is the program, what NextUp does is help the student believe in themselves.

Jordyan: So it's changed me in the way of like I've been driven and motivated and told like you, Jordyan, are capable of X, you can do this thing that you want to do. Oh, this country you want to go to, you can totally do that. Just because you're from the foster system and like you don't have oodles of money, you can do everything. And because of that, I have done.

Ernesto: When you really take that you know the voice from the population that you're trying to model the program for, and actually do it and show the youth, look what you did, you had a voice in it. It makes us believe and understand like this is for us.

Jordyan: Like it ties back into like trust and trauma, it's just a point of like having someone do it. Because once you build that, like the amount of love and support that's there, they'll want to participate.