

NextUp Video Four
October, 2017

Linsey: NextUp is my family. You're having a hard time and you don't know where to go and if you're feeling how you felt when you were younger, in the foster care program, but you can't really talk for yourself. You don't have a voice. NextUp does their best and they excel beyond expectation and they go beyond what is written on paper.

Jordyan: What it has been has been, absolutely what was the description given to me. Like, it is stability. It is a group of individuals who, I know for, without a doubt, like even on a day, I'm not at school today, but if something were to go wrong, I know that I could call one of the staff or call the office and say, "hey, I'm having a horrible day today. I need someone to talk to," they're there.

Ernesto: They really took everything you know that we said, and tried to come up with some solution. Some type of, you know, answer to it, to our question. And it was just, for me, it was just like a real breathtaking, you know, experience for me and you know I'm just blessed and thankful that, you know, the support is here now.

Mark: I think what I would like students to know the best when they come into a NextUp program and they walk onto a college campus, know that you belong. Walk on a college campus and look and notice that success comes in your shape, your size, your color, don't be so scared. The hardest part about going to a Nextup program is having the courage to do it.

Veronica: There are so many resources out there for foster youth in general. Give yourself a chance. Those dreams that you have, that you think are unattainable, are completely within your reach. Don't think that you are not good enough. Don't think that you are not smart enough. Anyone can step forward and try to get these resources. You just have to reach out and grab it for yourself.

Linsey: A huge turning point, actually for me, was becoming a student worker at the college. And, it's because it made my life so much easier. I got to be around supportive people. So, I get to help other students when they come in and I see them how I was when I first started and now I actually get to help them. It's not, it's nothing like the system and what you're used to. The biggest difference is that you don't feel like it's people doing, trying to just do their job. The staff in NextUp genuinely care.

