



The American Dream Program 2015 Yearbook



The American Dream Program

HeartShare St. Vincent's Services (HSVS) empowers youth, individuals and families to overcome the challenges of family crises, addiction, mental illness and poverty. Working together, we open new doors of opportunity to help our clients achieve healthy and happy lives. With four programmatic divisions - Foster Care and Prevention Programs; Integrated Health Services; Residential and Housing Programs; and Youth Development and Community Programs - HSVS staff members serve over 6,000 New Yorkers each year, including over 2,700 of the City's most vulnerable youth. This continuum of services enables HSVS to meet our clients' unique circumstances and needs, equipping them with tools and skills needed to achieve their dreams. By offering a stable home, a safe place to go after school, a means to graduate college and the skills to achieve physical and mental well-being, HSVS equalizes opportunities for those who need it most.

Our American Dream Program (ADP), unique to HSVS, demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that older youth leaving foster care get the support they need to achieve their dreams. ADP is a scholarship and coaching program for youth who are currently or were formerly in foster care with HSVS and who are also attending college. ADP Scholars receive financial assistance, college counseling, academic tutoring, career preparation, and emotional support to ensure that they graduate from college. ADP is designed to achieve the following outcomes for our youth: (1) Improve rates of employment; (2) Increase social and emotional connections, and (3) Increase educational achievement.

In 2015, 34 College Scholars were supported through ADP. The 2015-2016 ADP Yearbook showcases the drive and determination of these College Scholars through their personal interviews.

Call to Action: Everyone Can Achieve Their American Dream

Youth in foster care face staggering odds. The fact that our students step onto a college campus and enroll in classes make them the elite few among their peers in foster care. In a 2010 study by researchers at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, 20% of youth in foster care who were surveyed had no high school diploma or GED. Further, only 4% had received a degree from a 2-year college and just 3% had received a degree from a 4-year college.

Your support will allow us to continue and expand ADP. **Our first goal is to double the number of youth** we serve through this important program by providing a more solid pathway for our high school juniors and seniors to enroll in college. **Our second goal is to increase the level of financial and programmatic support we provide to our College Scholars** so that they have a more fulfilling college experience. In order to accomplish our goals, we need you to invest in our ADP College Scholars.

Currently, through ADP, our College Scholars receive:

- A monthly stipend for each month in the calendar year,
- A monthly metrocard for youth in the city or the equivalent allowance for youth out of the city,
- Tuition assistance and textbooks, and
- Financial rewards through our new grade incentive program for College Scholars who receive As and Bs on their final semester transcripts.

If you wish to invest in our ADP College Scholars by donating money, serving as a mentor or tutor, or providing our College Scholars with internships and other job opportunities, please contact Lauren Lee Pettiette, Director of Development and Youth Programs, at 718-422-2339 or Lauren.Pettiette@heartshare.org.

HSVS Reverend Monsignor Robert M. Harris 2015 Youth of the Year

**SKIDMORE
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2019

Andrea “Dea”

BUSINESS/INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Characteristics

Decisive
Dedicated
Resilient

Quote

“Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.”-Alan Turing, *Imitation Games*

Hobbies & Interests

DJ
Music
Politics
Reading

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Research schools with HEOP/EOP programs. If you apply, you may be awarded free tuition.”

Since entering foster care, Andrea (“Dea”) has faced a world of uncertainty. Dea is known for her resilience, fierce intellectual curiosity and a strong desire to improve the lives of others. Dea has lived in three different states and has lived in both kinship and non-kinship foster homes. Growing up, Dea used education as an anchor to take control of her life and create her own future. Today, Dea is determined to be successful, and she refuses to be invisible, powerless or allow her past to define her future. HSVS is proud to call Dea an American Dream Program (ADP) Scholar and this year’s *Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Harris Youth of the Year*.

Currently, Dea is a freshman student at Skidmore College on a full scholarship through Skidmore’s Higher Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP). Dea has become a confident, active student on campus, and she loves engaging in all of the events, workshops and other opportunities that the school has to offer. Although she is still officially “undeclared,” Dea plans on double majoring in Business and International Affairs. Dea hopes to travel the world and learn more about other people and cultures. She is also an avid reader—already a subscriber to *The Economist* and *The New Yorker!* Dea is passionate about human rights and political advocacy and plans to go to law school and become a politician or nonprofit leader.

Within the past year, Dea has thought deeply about how leaders in higher education can help young men and women reckon with the reality of growing up in foster care. “Youth in care need a sense of belonging to integrate the various parts of themselves: who they were before care, who they are in care and who they will be when they age out,” Dea explained.

In her essay for *Youth of the Year*, Dea proposed that colleges provide comprehensive supports to explore these questions, such as counseling services and community-building activities. Dea looks forward to participating in HSVS’ Youth Advisory Board, which will allow her, along with other ADP scholars, to offer feedback to the HSVS leadership team on how to provide effective supports and engaging opportunities to all youth in HSVS’ care.

Dea believes ADP is the embodiment of the idea “work hard, and you will achieve success.” While the notion is great in theory, Dea points out that many people have obstacles in their way that make success seem less than attainable. ADP bridges this gap and makes the impossible attainable for those who lack the same opportunities as their peers.

Runner Up for the
HSVS Reverend Monsignor Robert M. Harris 2015 Youth of the Year

**SUNY-SULLIVAN
COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2016

Runie
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Characteristics

Responsible
Determined
Motivated

Quote

“If A is a success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut.”-Albert Einstein

Hobbies & Interests

Working with kids
Fashion
Music

**Advice for Future
College Bound
Youth**

“Stay focused, go for what you want, and don't let anything stand in your way.”

Growing up, Runie lacked confidence in herself, and she did not see herself becoming “anything in life.” When she moved into one of HSVS’ Group Residential Homes, she realized how different things could be and that she could work to make her life brighter and more positive.

At first, Runie did not make education a high priority. Runie was registered for high school, but she stopped attending and began getting into trouble. Then, she found a GED program that fit her needs and interests. Runie graduated from the GED program, and then set her dreams on attending college. After seeing many of her peers struggle without a college degree, Runie knew that she needed to buckle down and get her degree. With the encouragement of her friends, family and the HSVS staff, Runie applied to college and was accepted.

Currently, Runie attends SUNY Sullivan County Community College. Although Runie’s first semester of college was a tough adjustment, she now holds a strong GPA and is on track to graduate.

Runie considers herself fortunate to be part of ADP. She believes that being an ADP College Scholar has shown her that she is capable of doing anything she puts her mind to. She appreciates the comprehensive support she receives every step of the way. For Runie, being in ADP levels the playing field and allowing her to have an equal chance at achieving her dreams. Runie wants people to say, “Wow, Runie! She had hard times, but she came into care, improved and she made something of herself?”

Runner Up for the HSVS Reverend Monsignor Robert M. Harris 2015 Youth of the Year

Shantel

FINANCE



Shantel came into foster care at the age of six as a result of her mother being unable to care for her. Shantel's experience in foster care and her experiences as a young child have made her into a compassionate, confident advocate for herself and for others who need a voice.

Shantel admits that it hasn't been easy being placed in foster care after her mother's mental health issues rendered her incapable of taking care of her. From an early age, Shantel was committed to her academic to being an all-around successful person throughout every stage of life. Shantel's determination for academic and personal success came from her desire for a stable and successful life. Shantel is determined to be the first person in her family to get a college degree.

Currently, Shantel is a sophomore at Lincoln University where she is on her way to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, although she is considering switching to majoring in Accounting and minoring in Mass Communication. Shantel excels in school and tries to surround herself with people who have the same drive for success. Shantel aims high as she hopes to have a 4.0 before she graduates—she already has one of the highest GPAs in ADP. Shantel dreams of going to graduate school and of creating an organization that helps girls who have been through a similar situation to her.

To Shantel, ADP means that she is able to reach her full potential, and she is able to become the best she can be. Shantel is proud of the work she did on her own to be an exemplary young woman, but she also credits the additional supports and resources from ADP for her success—her self-drive would not have been enough for her to be at this great point in life. Through the help of ADP, Shantel has been able to get one step closer to reaching her dreams.

**LINCOLN
UNIVERSITY**
CLASS OF 2018

Characteristics

Resilient

Determined

Persistent

Quote

“Overcome, improvise and adapt.”

Clubs

Acting Out (Acting Club)

Sistah (Female Community Service)

Resident Hall Association –
Executive Board – Treasurer

American Sign Language Club

Lions Media (Media Club)

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Do research to find out what college best fits you. Also, stay driven and get all that college has to offer.”

2015 ADP GRADUATE

Amberly COSMETOLOGY



Amberly came into care with HSVS in 2012. Despite the issues and challenges Amberly faced, she stayed focused in order to pursue her passion—hair! From a young age Amberly knew she wanted to work as a hairstylist. Amberly’s friends and family members would constantly ask her to style and fix their hair. She loved, and still loves, experimenting with different styles, colors and textures. Amberly enjoys seeing how different looks can change people’s perceptions and personalities. But it was a summer job in a beauty salon that really pushed Amberly to pursue this passion as a viable career.

In the fall of 2014, Amberly enrolled in Empire Beauty School. There, she learned various techniques and skills that are necessary for being a beautician. Amberly excelled at Empire—she was named the top student multiple times, had perfect attendance and caught the attention of her teachers and peers alike. Amberly enjoyed her time at Empire Beauty School and admits it taught her timeliness and respect.

Amberly graduated from Empire in the spring of 2015 and now anticipates enrolling in Borough of Manhattan Community College for the Spring 2016 Semester. She plans on obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management so that she can own a successful hair salon. Amberly is also studying to take her state certification test to become a certified beautician. She aspires to one day move to California to open her future salon.

Amberly believes that ADP allows for her to follow her dreams and that with the support of ADP, no one can stop her from achieving her dreams.

EMPIRE BEAUTY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015

Characteristics

Dedicated

Ambitious

Zippy

Quote

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, sacrifice, and most of all the love of what you do.” -Pelé

Hobbies & Interests

Reading

Crochet

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Always put in a full effort and try your best to always be prepared.”

JOHN JAY COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2015

2015 ADP GRADUATE

Kevina

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Characteristics

Passionate
Determined
Motivated

Quote

“It’s important to find
balance.”

Hobbies & Interests

Walking in the park
Shopping
Watching make-up tutorials

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Do your best to not
procrastinate and make sure
you use the resources that
you have available.”

From a young age, Kevina realized that she had to push herself in order to have a better and brighter future. She also discovered the importance of education and realized that obtaining a college degree would open the doors to her dreams. When it came time to decide the school that best fit her interests, Kevina knew that John Jay College of Criminal Justice would be an ideal college. Kevina was always fascinated with “the criminal mind” and what decisions, experiences or opportunities drove people to make choices that labeled them as criminals. Kevina wanted to help people by putting them on the right track.

Anyone who meets Kevina will immediately be endeared to her. Her heart, compassion and kind demeanor will have you rooting for her success. Kevina’s time in college was tough—she had to adjust to transitioning out of care, taking care of herself and focusing on her studies. Although there were times she thought she would not be able to finish college, in the spring of 2015, Kevina graduated from John Jay with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. She embodies determination and courage.

While Kevina’s journey has not been easy, having to balance, work, school, and her personal life, she was able to succeed with the support of her friends and family as well ADP. For Kevina, ADP means empowerment. She is able to be the person she wants to be, and she credits ADP for much of her college success.

Kevina hopes to find a job as a social worker or a probation officer. She wants to help people who have made some mistakes in their lives and ensure that they can still have a bright future. Kevina is also planning on obtaining a Master’s Degree to ensure that she has all the tools to help her future clients.

Dalila
PSYCHOLOGY



Dalila entered foster care with HSVS before her freshman year of high school because of her mother's struggle with alcohol use. This was a challenging time in Dalila's life, but despite these challenges, Dalila was determined to not let anything get in her way of going to college. One big support during this time was having a loving foster family. Since coming into foster care, Dalila has gained new family members, including a foster sister whom she considers one of her best friends.

Dalila is an intelligent, kind-hearted young woman who makes things happen. Even in high school, Dalila made a promise to herself that she would go to college and study Psychology. Dalila's interest in studying Psychology came from her desire to learn how people think and behave.

This fall, Dalila started college as a freshman at University of Albany, and she is pursuing her dream and studying—Psychology! This year, Dalila plans to join an organization that spreads awareness of sexual violence. Dalila hopes to one day serve people in need of support as a social worker.

Dalila is proud of how far she has come despite all of the obstacles in her way. She credits ADP as playing a major role in her academic success. Dalila believes that ADP allows her to create the life she wants to live and to live life to the fullest.

Characteristics

Quiet
Creative
Determined

Quote

“Everything happens for a reason.”

Hobbies & Interests

Writing

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Be open minded, have fun
and be determined to
succeed.”

**KINGSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2018

Katherine
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Characteristics

Outgoing
Persistent
Determined

Quote

“Whatever doesn’t kill you
makes you stronger.”
-Friedrich Nietzsche

Hobbies & Interests

Modeling
Dancing

**Advice for Future
College Bound
Youth**

“If you are struggling seek
help, there are many
resources out there to help
you.”

Katherine entered into foster care at the age of seventeen. Despite the issues she has faced and trauma that she has endured, Katherine has remained resilient, strong and successful. Katherine is a bubbly young woman who prides herself on being a budding fashionista and a thoughtful, eloquent entrepreneur. Katherine is bilingual in Spanish and English, and she hopes to use her skills in her future career.

Katherine is determined to be an academic success so that she can prove to herself and others that she is “more than her past.” Katherine is already making a proud name and reputation for herself. Katherine is the first woman in her family to graduate high school, and she is also the first woman in her family to go to college.

Currently, Katherine is in her sophomore year at Kingsborough Community College and is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice. Katherine’s first semester was not her best, but she kicked her study habits into high gear in the following semester. Katherine brought up her cumulative GPA a full letter grade.

Katherine admits that at times, it can still be difficult to keep up with her school assignments, work and personal life. But with the support she gets from ADP and her college advisors, she is able to continue to pursue her dreams. Katherine hopes to go to law school and eventually become an Assistant District Attorney and then a Judge.

To Katherine, ADP means security. Being part of ADP allows her mind to be at ease so that she can focus on her academics and pursuing her dreams. Katherine believes that ADP shows her and her peers that HSVS truly cares about their futures.

Gabriela

LIBERAL ARTS



At the age of fourteen, Gabriela left her family home to escape an unsafe and unwelcoming environment. She subsequently entered into foster care with HSVS, where she faced times of uncertainty. Having seen her parents struggle and the issues they faced, Gabriela was determined to work hard to give herself a better future. Gabriela knew that getting a college degree was one sure way to gain independence and to feel supported. Along with this push to be her own person, Gabriela's younger brother served as another major inspiration for her to go to college. She wanted to serve as a role model for him and prove that even with obstacles and challenges, getting a college degree was possible.

Gabriela currently is a sophomore at Queensborough Community College where she studies Liberal Arts. Gabriela has big aspirations to be a success wherever she lands. Right now, Gabriela is exploring many different types of opportunities and career paths. She likes to help people and animals, and she is interested in being a radiologist, lawyer, veterinarian or teacher.

Gabriela is proud of how far she has come and of the person she is today. Additionally, through the encouragement and support of ADP, she realized that she will not only receive a college degree, but she will achieve her dreams.

QUEENSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
CLASS OF 2018

Characteristics

Creative

Hardworking

Dedicated

Quote

"Life is too short to dwell on the past."

Hobbies & Interests

Reading

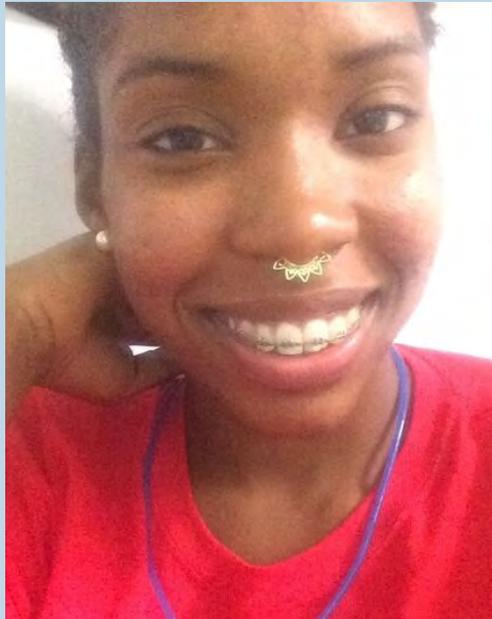
Crocheting

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

"Stay focused and finish things in a timely manner."

**KINGSBOROUGH
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2019

Alliyah
LIBERAL ARTS



Characteristics

Resilient
Free-spirited
Work-in-progress

Quote

“Hold strong to your convictions. Remain humble in your speech. Let your actions tell your story.”

Hobbies & Interests

Dancing, Acting, Singing,
Painting, Swimming, Fitness,
Basketball, Thrill-seeking

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“You don’t have to have it all figured out when going to college. It’s ok to go in undeclared and then figure out what interests you. Try to keep in a 4 year timeframe but don’t beat yourself up if you need an extra year.”

Alliyah entered foster care at the age of three. Alliyah admits that growing up in foster care has been a difficult journey, and she had to learn to be independent and courageous at an early age. Alliyah is determined to give herself a better life, a life that she controls, and she knows that it will happen through her hard work and perseverance. Alliyah is a great friend to her peers, an exceptional example to younger students and a model advocate for youth in foster care.

Alliyah’s initial drive to go to college was sparked by her want to adopt her younger siblings. She saw education as her path to stability and maturity, and she hoped that by showing these traits, her family would be reunited. Although this is no longer a viable option for her, she still maintains a healthy relationship with them and tries to be a positive role model for them.

Alliyah currently is enrolled in Kingsborough Community College as a freshman. She is a Liberal Arts major, and she plans on enrolling in the nursing program. Alliyah has had experience helping and coaching others as a lifeguard and swim coach, and she knows that her compassion and kindness will translate well into a career in nursing. Alliyah will make an amazing nurse, and her clients will benefit from her desire to give back to those in need and from her ability to empathize and connect with almost any person.

Although Alliyah has faced some difficulties in school, she has been able to succeed with the support of ADP. She is proud that she was able to be resilient and that she did not let the trauma of her past defeat her. After Alliyah obtains her Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing, she plans on continuing to earn her Master’s Degree.

Katherine
BIOLOGY/ PRE-MED



In 2010, Katherine entered into foster care with HSVS. Katherine's drive to go to college comes from her desire to overcome the obstacles that have been in her way. Neither of Katherine's parents went to college, and she wants to take advantage of every opportunity to ensure that she has the brightest future possible.

Katherine has always wanted to be a doctor. She has the personality, the intelligence and the drive to make it happen. Katherine likes to help other people, and she has a calm, confident presence. Additionally, Katherine finished at the top of her high school class—the second out of all of her peers!

Katherine recently completed an EMT training program in Bedford–Stuyvesant, and she is ready to begin college this Spring. Katherine has finished her applications, and she plans on enrolling in a SUNY college in the Spring of 2016. In college, Katherine plans on majoring in Biology. Once she earns her Bachelor's Degree, Katherine plans on going to medical school.

Katherine is gracious for the support she receives from her aunt who Katherine says has always pushed her to do well in school and to go after her dreams. Katherine sees ADP as a jump start, it allows for her to get on the right path to accomplish her dreams. She believes that ADP allows her to be worry free while she focuses on her future.

Characteristics

Laid back
Creative
Hardworking

Quote

"Through every dark night,
there's a bright day after that."
- Tupac Shakur

Hobbies & Interests

Writing
Animals

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

"Stay focused and keep going
despite the odds."

**ST. LAWRENCE
UNIVERSITY**
CLASS OF 2019

Jethro
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Characteristics

Passionate
Dedicated
Responsible

Quote

“Never let anyone tell you that there is something that you can’t do.”

Hobbies & Interests

Soccer
Hockey
Socializing with friends

**Advice for Future
College Bound
Youth**

“College will be a major part of your life, so don’t be afraid to explore it. You can always change your major. Try everything to figure out what you like. “

Originally from Côte d’Ivoire, Jethro fell in love with soccer at a young age. For Jethro there has always been a special link between soccer and school. Just as he loved soccer, Jethro was very serious about school. He showed the same dedication and determination to excel in both the classroom and on the field.

When Jethro first moved to the United States with his mother, soccer was a way for him to connect with new friends while learning the English language. Soccer motivated Jethro to excel in school and put his energy into pursuing positive friends and after-school activities. Less than a year after arriving to the United States, Jethro’s mother unexpectedly lost her job. During this time, Jethro stayed with friends, but what he wanted was a stable place to stay. Once again, Jethro turned to soccer, and his soccer coach connected him with HSVS.

Jethro entered into foster care when he was 15 years old. Jethro faced many difficulties while adjusting to foster care, then to boarding school and finally to college, but Jethro has remained committed to being a success. Jethro recognizes that becoming a professional soccer player will be very difficult, and he knows that a college education is a critical part of advancing both on and off the field. Jethro wants to be prepared to have a good job revolving around soccer if he is not able to play. Jethro is driven to succeed academically so that he can remain an active leader on the field and set a positive example for his siblings.

This fall, Jethro began his freshman year at St. Lawrence University on a full scholarship and is majoring in Business. Within Business, Jethro would like to concentrate on Sports Management or Marketing. Jethro aspires to be a professional soccer player and a business entrepreneur.

He is a starting midfielder on the Men’s Soccer team. Already, he has received conference honors for his athletic accomplishments. Recently, Jethro was named the Liberty League Rookie of the Year and to the All-Liberty League First Team—the only freshman on this team.

To Jethro, ADP means that he is supported while he pursues his academic and professional dreams.

Mamadou

CIVIL ENGINEERING



Mamadou came to the United States with his family when he was fifteen years old. When his parents returned to Senegal, Mamadou stayed in New York City with his aunt to continue to pursue his education. In school, Mamadou made his mark as a star athlete on the soccer field; however, he also experienced hardship. On a visit to Senegal, his aunt became a victim of a green card scam and was denied entry back into the United States. This left Mamadou alone, with no money, no food, no family and almost no shelter when the landlord attempted to evict him.

After talking to his high school soccer coach about his struggles, Mamadou found his home at HSVS' Jamaica Hills Group Home. His soccer coach remained a close mentor and ally and supported him throughout high school and beyond. Additionally, Mamadou found support from his HSVS family.

Mamadou graduated from high school and went on to earn his Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering. But Mamdou did not stop there. He was accepted as a student at NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. He sees this additional degree as giving him a better opportunity for a brighter future. He is determined to not be limited by his situation and to serve as a role model for others. In 2013, Mamadou was named the *Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Harris Youth of the Year*.

Mamadou is in his final year at NYU Polytechnic and anticipates getting his degree in Civil Engineering in the spring of 2016. Mamadou hopes to have a successful career in engineering and wants to make a difference by helping develop his home country of Senegal.

Mamadou credits much of his success to the support that he gets from ADP. He believes that ADP made it possible to get his education and pursue his dreams despite the hardships he faced.

NYU POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING CLASS OF 2016

Characteristics

Determined
Ambitious
Eager to learn

Quote

"Believe in yourself and be willing to make a difference. Follow what you believe in."

Hobbies & Interests

Soccer
Fixing electronics

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

"Research before you pick a major. See what major sparks your interest and what majors will help you get a job in the future."

"Remember that the road to accomplish your dreams may not be easy but it is possible with enough hard work and determination."

**LAGUARDIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2019

Ericka
JOURNALISM



Characteristics

Spontaneous
Critical Thinker
Adventurous

Quote

“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered you will never grow.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Hobbies & Interests

Reading
Writing short stories
Fitness

**Advice for Future
College Bound
Youth**

“Get involved at your school.”

Ericka came into foster care in 2011 after her living situation at home became too dangerous. Ericka sees her time in foster care as a blessing in disguise as it has opened up many opportunities for her. Since she first entered foster care, Ericka has lived with her grandmother in a kinship home. Ericka believes that her experience in foster care has taught her that you can make a good situation out of anything.

Ericka is a spunky young woman who is full of energy, ideas and dreams. This past summer, she served as a youth journalist and editor for the magazine *Youth Represent*. Ericka’s work was featured in a fall edition of the magazine, and she continues to receive glowing reviews and exciting opportunities from her time at the magazine.

Ericka currently is a freshman at LaGuardia Community College where she majors in Liberal Arts. She is exploring the idea of transferring to a four-year school outside of the city that has a more developed journalism program. Additionally, Ericka hopes that transferring to a college outside of the city would provide her with the opportunity to grow into a more independent, thoughtful young woman. Ericka is proud of how far she has come and is proud to be a role model for her younger siblings. Ericka credits her success, in part, to ADP as she believes it provides her with the necessary tools to succeed in school.

Corey

AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE



In the Spring of 2011, Corey entered foster care with HSVS. Despite the fact that most of his family never graduated from college and despite all the personal obstacles he has faced, Corey is on the path to achieve his dreams. Corey consistently excels in college and in his jobs, and he has one of the highest GPAs among the ADP College Scholars.

From a young age, Corey loved airplanes and dreamed of being a pilot. His interest was sparked by living close to JFK Airport when he was younger, which allowed him the opportunity to watch the planes land and take off. Before college, Corey spent time studying airplanes—the mechanics, the different types and the opportunities that he may have to work with them.

Corey did an amazing job of navigating the college process, and he found his place at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology where he majors in Aeronautical Science. Corey currently is a sophomore, and he has just begun to take flight lessons. He has made a great impression on his classmates, professors and advisors, and many of them recognize his perseverance and positive attitude.

Although Corey has dreams of being a pilot, he also says that he is interested in becoming an air traffic controller. For Corey, ADP means having the ability to succeed in life and to remain stress free as he follows the path to achieve his dreams.

VAUGHN COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS AND TECHNOLOGY

CLASS OF 2018

Characteristics

Funny

Outgoing

Critical Thinker

Quote

“I don’t want to grow old knowing I did nothing with my life. Find your spark in life and make like fire!”

Hobbies & Interests

Traveling

Trains

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Attendance is very important. Don’t skip classes.”

“Enjoy your time.”

**BOROUGH OF
MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2018

Bianca

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Characteristics

Courageous
Self-advocate
Productive

Quote

“Aspire to live.”

Hobbies & Interests

Spending time with her
daughter
Kickboxing
Playing video games

**Advice for Future
College Bound
Youth**

“Stay focused and
disciplined. Also, don’t be
afraid to ask questions!”

In 2004, Bianca entered into foster care after the loss of her mother. Bianca’s whole world had been turned upside down, and she had a difficult time adjusting to foster care. Although Bianca has faced challenges and obstacles, she has continued to persevere and find a silver lining. Bianca has learned to be an independent young woman who stands on her own.

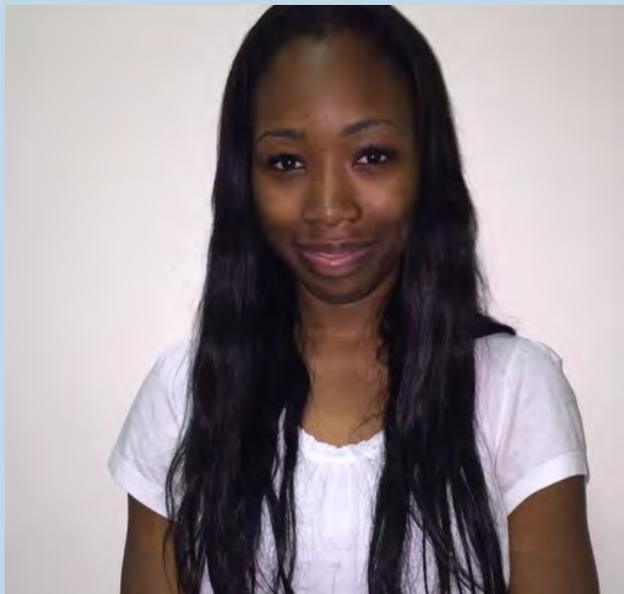
Bianca knew that college would serve as an important piece to bettering her life and ensuring that she could achieve her dreams. She also wanted to set a positive example for her daughter and instill a love for learning in their family.

Bianca currently is in her sophomore year at Borough of Manhattan Community College where she is a Criminal Justice major. Although she admits it is sometimes difficult to balance being a mother, being a college student and working, she stays strong and successful with the help of her family and ADP.

Bianca views ADP as a supportive shoulder that she can rest on when the world is too overwhelming. Bianca is grateful for all ADP has done for her, and she believes ADP has helped her focus on school rather than focus on financial burdens. Through the support of ADP, Bianca is taking big steps towards her goals and future.

Brieahanna

ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICAL SCIENCE/
COMPUTER ENGINEERING



Brieahanna entered foster care with HSVS at the age of fifteen because of her mother's struggles with alcohol use that turned into abuse. Not being able to turn to her mother, Brieahanna tried to have a relationship with her father, but he completely shut her out of his life. Instead of only looking at the negative in the experiences she faced, Brieahanna looked at her childhood as motivation to strive for a better life for herself and advocate for all youth in foster care.

In high school, Brieahanna was determined to take control of her own future and ensure that she went to college. She excelled in her academics, took control of all of her college applications and stayed on track to graduate as a top student. Brieahanna is an excellent writer and critical thinker. Not only did she receive a college scholarship, she was also a Grand Prize Winner for the citywide Award for Youth in Foster Care. Additionally, she has written articles that have been published in newspapers and letters to politicians to inform their decisions that affect youth in foster care.

Brieahanna currently is in her freshman year at SUNY Albany where she hopes to become a computer engineer or actuary. She is excelling in her classes—straight As!—thanks to her natural smarts and her school's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Although Brieahanna is not entirely set on one career path, she is certain that she wants it to involve math. Brieahanna enjoys the fact that in math, there is often only one answer, but many different ways to find that answer. She also dreams of writing a book and one day opening up a foster home for girls. Whatever she does, Brieahanna wants to make sure that she does not have to depend on anyone to help her.

Brieahanna is incredibly grateful for the support she has. She has multiple mentors who she can turn to when she faces challenges, but she is especially grateful to have her grandmother and a former teacher who serve as her constant sources of inspiration and support. Brieahanna also believes that ADP has played a major role in her success.

Characteristics

Hardworking
Intelligent
Advocate

Quote

“Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you are right.” - Henry Ford

Clubs

Calculus Tutor
JANUS (Business Club)
Digital Forensics Club

Hobbies & Interests

Tennis
Skiing
Learning to play golf
Fencing
Roller and ice skating

**NEW YORK CITY
COLLEGE OF
TECHNOLOGY**
CLASS OF 2017

Love

HUMAN SERVICES



Characteristics

Dedicated
Passionate
Nurturing

Quote

“If you are walking down the right path and you are willing to keep walking, eventually you will make progress.”-Barack Obama

Hobbies & Interests

Volunteering
Writing
Spending time with her daughter

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

“Make yourself available to all the resources around you. Even if you do not need the help now it is important to connect because you never know when you may need them.”

At the age of sixteen, Lové entered foster care, and she had difficulties adjusting to daily life without the constant support of her family. Despite these difficulties, Lové stayed determined to complete high school and go to college. She wanted better for herself and saw education as a means to accomplish all of her goals.

Currently, Lové is a junior at the New York City College of Technology, where she is studying Human Services. She has aspirations to further her education by going to law school. With her legal degree, she plans on working in family court as well as advocating for youth in foster care and youth who are at risk of entering foster care. Eventually, Lové would like to open her own organization where she can help individuals who have transitioned out of foster care without a permanent adult connection.

Lové admits that her biggest challenge is balancing being a student, a mother, working, staying connected with her family and maintaining a household. Her personal determination continues to be her best ally as she has been able to stay dedicated and work hard to accomplish her goals. To Lové, ADP means the opportunity to succeed. Lové believes that ADP provides necessary support that allows her to go through college without having to worry about the financial burdens others struggle with.

Melanie

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



Melanie entered into foster care as a teenager and admits it was an extremely difficult, overwhelming time. Melanie remembers feeling as though she had to “grow up overnight.” For anyone who meets Melanie, you immediately will figure out that this young woman’s cheerful demeanor and positive attitude have enabled her to stay on course and be a stellar student.

Melanie currently is a sophomore at SUNY Buffalo and is majoring in Occupational Therapy. However, Melanie has recently discovered a passion for International Studies and is considering switching her major so that she can further explore this interest. Right now, Melanie is bilingual, but she aspires to become fluent in more languages. This semester, Melanie began taking courses in Korean, and she thinks that being fluent in multiple languages will help further an international career.

While Melanie is still exploring future career options, she knows that no matter what her future holds she wants to make a difference and help youth who are in foster care. At school, Melanie is involved in a coalition through the Buffalo’s Educational Opportunities Program (EOP) where she is able to discuss and review different ideas for making the college experience better for youth who are in foster care.

Melanie is proud that she has been able to come this far. She credits much of her success to the support she receives from her aunt and her siblings. She is also extremely grateful for the support that she receives from ADP and believes that the program allows her to be stress free as she continues with her academic pursuits.

Characteristics

Friendly

Energetic

Funny

Quote

“Just be who **you** want to be not what **others** want to see.”

Hobbies & Interests

Traveling

Hanging out with friends

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Be ready for changes.”

“Make an effort to meet new people.”

YORK COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2016

Damien

BUSINESS



Characteristics

Motivated
Free-spirited
Determined

Quote

“When everything seems to be going against you, remember the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it” - Henry Ford

Hobbies & Interests

Basketball
Spending time with friends and family
Traveling

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Stay Focused. Make a plan and stick to it.”

Damien entered foster care when he was born. Although he admits that it has been difficult to be separated from his family, Damien believed that his experience has been a blessing in disguise. His experience has driven him to succeed personally, academically and one day, professionally.

Damien is proud that he never let his situation get the best of him, and he has served as a great example to his peers as someone who makes positive decisions, goes after his dreams and remains true to himself. In 2011, Damien was honored as the *Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Harris Youth of the Year*. Damien's success in college makes him a positive role model for his siblings and shows them that despite their circumstances, they can still succeed.

Damien currently is in his senior year at York College and is thrilled that he will receive a Bachelor's Degree in Business in the spring of 2016. He has enjoyed many of his classes and has especially enjoyed his Psychology class because he learned a lot about how people think and behave. Damien admits that his biggest challenge has been to stay focused on school, but he believes that the ADP provides him with essential support needed to remain set on excelling in school.

Damien is a charismatic, intelligent young man who has many aspirations. He has a passion for acting and wants to pursue a career in the cinema. He also is interested in owning a real estate business where he can continue to explore the city that he loves. Damien stated that the support that ADP provided allowed for him to pursue his interests and receive better opportunities in order to succeed.

Daniel

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES



Daniel left Guyana for the United States at a young age. The transition from his home country to a new country made him and his family realize the abundance of opportunities that are available in our nation. However, even with these opportunities, Daniel's family faced challenges that forced Daniel into foster care. As a youth, Daniel learned how to adapt to change and persevere through the struggles of being an immigrant and a youth in foster care. Recently, Daniel became a U.S. citizen and is now determined to be the first in his family to obtain a college degree.

Daniel currently is in his freshman year at Monroe College where he is pursuing a degree in Information Technologies. Even in his first semester of college, Daniel shows that he is an intelligent young man destined for great things. He is confident and organized, and he consistently earns great grades in all of his classes, Daniel is proud of how far he has come in the face of all the adversity he has faced. After getting his Bachelor's Degree, Daniel plans on working for a respected company and eventually being able to bring his mother to the United States.

ADP means that Daniel is supported as he pursues his academic and professional dreams and that he does not have to worry about the financial cost of attending college. Daniel is grateful for the support he has been given and is proud that he has been able to grow as a person who is able to better focus on education.

Characteristics

Determined

Hardworking

Quote

"Take things one step at a time."

Hobbies & Interests

Fitness

Watching movies

IT Club

Sneakers

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

"Make sure you utilize all of your resources. Talk to your advisors, seek financial assistance, and be sure to network."

**NEW YORK CITY
COLLEGE OF
TECHNOLOGY**
CLASS OF 2017

Santos

HUMAN SERVICES



Characteristics

Spiritual
Believer
Fighter

Quote

“A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.”-Dr. Les Brown

Hobbies & Interests

Basketball
Reading
Fitness
Music
Watching documentaries

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

“It will not be easy, but it will be worth it, so never give up. Respond to challenges with effort and dedication and you will overcome.”

After fleeing from Honduras at the age of 15, Santos arrived in the United States ready to start a new life. Santos came into foster care with HSVS through the help of one of his teachers. When he arrived in the United States, Santos initially had enrolled in school. However, he soon felt that he needed to quit school to make money, support himself and begin his career more quickly. In Honduras, Santos knew many people who had college educations, but still struggled to lead healthy, happy lives.

After entering foster care, Santos realized the importance of having an education in the United States and figured out a way to balance school and part-time jobs. Santos saw that a college degree would mean a difference in his income level, his personal comfort and in his professional success. Through the encouragement of the HSVS staff and his own determination, Santos finished high school and set his eyes on college.

Santos currently is a junior at the New York City College of Technology and is anticipating graduating in the spring of 2017. Santos is a Human Services major. Santos strongly believes that he did not pick this major, but instead the major picked him. Santos believes that his life experiences and personality make him a perfect person to engage in social work and to serve those who are most in need. Santos aspires to help others reach their full potential.

Santos believes that being in this program has been a life changing experience. ADP is everything for Santos, and he says without it he would not have anything. He is grateful that ADP continues to give him a chance to achieve his dreams and become the man he wants to be.

Dareth

BUSINESS



Since Dareth entered foster care at the age of three, she has faced many difficulties and has overcome many obstacles. During her time in foster care, Dareth lived in over thirteen different foster homes and attended at least ten different schools. Even with all of these challenges, Dareth has not let these struggles define her. Instead, she let them give her strength, encouragement and motivation to take control of her destiny and be a strong student, advocate and leader.

Although there were bumps in the road, Dareth has made great strides in her educational pursuits. She sees education as the best way to better herself. Last year, she began college at SUNY-Sullivan County Community College, but made it her goal to transfer to a four-year school. Additionally, she made us proud by serving as last year's *Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Harris Youth of the Year*.

Dareth achieved her short-term goal of transferring colleges, and she currently is a sophomore at University of Albany where she is majoring in business. She has been extremely proactive in ensuring that nothing will stand in the way of her educational dreams. She has received multiple competitive scholarships, and she utilizes the resources she has on campus.

Dareth believes that ADP has played an essential role in her educational success. Dareth admits that at times, college has not been easy; however, with the help of ADP and her team of supporters, Dareth has been excelling in school. Dareth plans on earning a Master's Degree in Business Administration and eventually opening a community center where she can give back to others in need.

Characteristics

Compassionate

Helpful

Fun

Quote

"To guarantee success you must act like it's impossible to fail."-Dorothea Brande

Hobbies & Interests

Reading

Watching movies

Self-education

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

"Work diligently, efficiently, and effectively, but don't forget to have fun."

MEDGAR EVERS

CLASS OF 2018

Quashana

PSYCHOLOGY



Characteristics

Sassy

Independent

Eager

Quote

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

-Maya Angelou

Hobbies & Interests

Tennis

Volleyball

Hanging out with friends

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Don’t give up although it may seem too difficult. Always remember even if doesn’t seem like there are people rooting for you, there are.”

In 2008, Quashana came into foster care. She quickly learned that she had to be independent, organized and confident in herself in order to be a success. With her eyes on the future, Quashana dedicated herself to her school work and studies. Quashana admits that it was difficult not having parents supporting her and pushing her to succeed in her educational pursuits; however, she feels very fortunate to have a caring aunt who was there while she was in high school and who continues to be there for Quashana.

Quashana currently is a sophomore at Medgars Evers College where she studies psychology. Although she admits that she had difficulties adjusting to the workload during her first year of college, she is now on the road to success. Quashana has a fantastic attitude, a captivating personality and a strong determination to make a name for herself. She is a go-getter who makes things happen, which is evident in her bubbly, engaging demeanor. Quashana has figured out how to balance work and college, and recently, she was offered two different retail positions—right on the spot!

Quashana is very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of ADP. She believes ADP means hope for a better tomorrow. She sees ADP as proof that HSVS wants the best for her and her fellow Scholars. Quashana would like to eventually open her own business where she can work with and help disabled children.

Junesha

MEDICAL ASSISTANT/CNA



Junesha has been in foster care since 2006, and despite the obstacles she faced with her family and in her personal life, she has never lost hope for a better future. Junesha has seen many people go down the wrong path and does not want to be like them. Based on these experiences, Junesha wants more for her life. She is determined to write her own future rather than be defined by some of the challenges she has faced and past decisions that she has made. Junesha knows that it starts with a proper education.

From a young age, Junesha knew she wanted to be in the medical field. Junesha is a kind-hearted, compassionate young woman who likes helping others.

A couple of years ago, Junesha was enrolled in a nursing program at Medgar Evers College; however, Junesha realized that this was not the ideal educational setting for her learning style and for the personal goals she set for herself. Junesha knew that she wanted a program that would give her more hands-on experience. In the fall of 2015, Junesha enrolled in Manhattan School of Computer Technology's Medical Assistant Program.

Although Junesha admits it has been difficult at times to overcome some personal hurdles, she believes through her personal determination and the support of ADP, she will be a success. Junesha is grateful for the support and opportunities ADP has provided to her.

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CLASS OF 2016

Characteristics

Fun
Independent
Motivated

Quote

“Always keep your head up.”

Hobbies & Interests

Shopping
Helping others

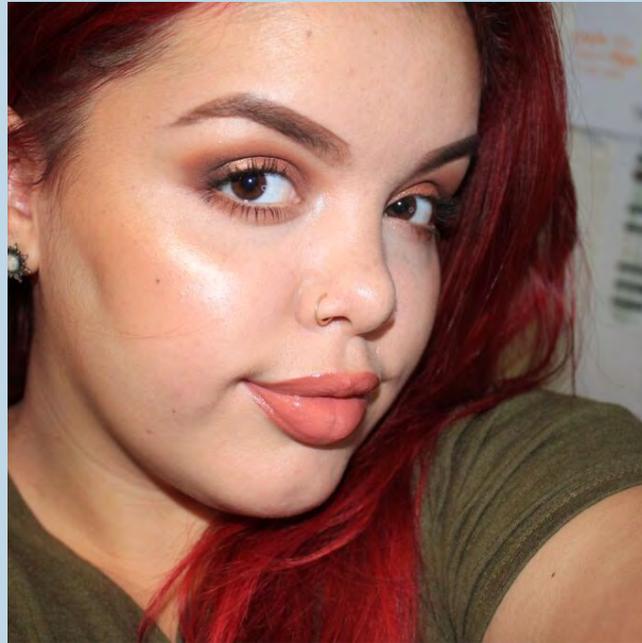
Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Stay focused and isolate yourself from distraction.”

**UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS-
AMHERST**
CLASS OF 2019

Gabrielle

UNDECLARED



Characteristics

Caregiver

Passionate

Driven

Quote

"You are exactly where you need to be."-Jennifer Kass

Hobbies & Interests

Acapella singing

Beauty

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

"Don't worry about having it all figured out. You have time."

Gabrielle ("Gabbie") grew up in foster care and lived with her grandmother. She feels fortunate to be close to her younger siblings and serve as a role model for them.

Gabbie is a creative, passionate young woman. Growing up, she found her confidence and voice through singing and forms of artistic expression. These creative outlets allowed Gabbie to blossom into her own person and seek opportunities to be independent and successful. Gabbie's inspiration for academic success comes from her desire to be a role model for her younger siblings and show them that that "where you come from has no bearing on where you are going."

Gabbie is proud of the progress she has made and of all of the obstacles she has overcome. Gabbie's resilience and determination allowed for her to remain focused on her educational goals so that she could enroll in her top college.

Gabbie currently is a freshman at University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Gabbie would like to get her Bachelor's Degree and potentially earn additional degrees. She hopes to one day be either a Psychologist or a Psychiatrist for young children with special needs. Gabbie is grateful for the opportunity to be part of ADP as it allows her to take better control of her future.

Elan

SPORTS NUTRITION



Elan entered foster care when he was in high school. During this time, Elan did not make school a priority, and he did not see the value in being invested in it. However, Elan was very fortunate to have two older sisters who were able to change his mind and show him that education was the key to opening doors and making him successful.

Additionally, Elan connected with his brother-in-law who motivated him and showed Elan that no matter what obstacles lay in his way, he could overcome them. Elan learned from these older mentors that his hard work and determination would pay off. During his senior year of high school, Elan buckled down and not only graduated from high school, he also immediately enrolled in college the following semester.

Currently, Elan is a sophomore at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania where he majors in Sports Nutrition. This major is a perfect fit for Elan. Fitness has always been his passion, and he believes that being healthy plays an important role in being successful in the classroom and happy in life.

Elan is proud that he was able to make it to college and that he feels like he is finally in control of his own life. Elan admits he is no longer nervous about the future, and instead, he is able to explore his interests and enjoy his college experience.

To Elan, ADP means he will be able to achieve his dreams. Elan believes that he will not only be able to achieve success in his career, but he will also be able to live life on his terms and not have his past define him.

Characteristics

Dedicated
Consistent
Persistent

Hobbies & Interests

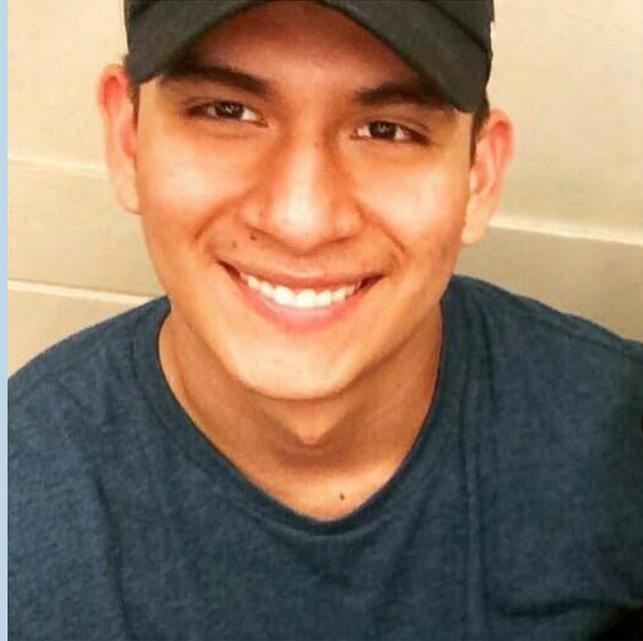
Football
Boxing
Basketball

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“College is not all about social life; it is important to find a balance between academics and social life.”

**BOROUGH OF
MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2019

Victor
LIBERAL ARTS



Characteristics

Spiritual
Hopeful
Unrelenting

Quote

“Fake it ‘til you make it.”

Hobbies & Interests

Handball
Soccer

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

“Don’t give up. If there is something you want, go for it.”

In 2011, Victor entered foster care. Despite facing a world of uncertainties, Victor remained focused and dedicated to his education. From his experiences, Victor believes that you can find something positive in everything, and he used his challenges and obstacles to become a responsible and hardworking young man.

Victor is a thoughtful, intelligent student. Victor pushed himself to go to college to ensure that he will have better opportunities in the future. Victor is a big advocate of what education can do for a person, and he knows that a degree will take him any place that he wants to go.

Currently, Victor is a freshman at Borough of Manhattan Community College where he is a Liberal Arts major. Victor is still exploring his interests and figuring out which career his future will hold. Although he has struggled with balancing academics, work and his life as a youth in foster care, Victor is proud of how far he has come. Victor made great leaps in his educational success from his first semester to second semester of school. Now, he consistently makes As and Bs on his assignments.

To Victor, ADP is an opportunity to dream big. ADP has opened many doors for Victor, and he is grateful for the support he receives. Victor sees ADP as proof that those around him care about his education and his success and will continue to push him to achieve his dreams.

Kayla

PSYCHOLOGY



When Kayla entered care in 2010, she had difficulties adjusting to her new life. Despite all of the changes and all of the obstacles, Kayla always had people in her life who were there to help her figure things out and get to a better place. Kayla believes that the reason she is in college is because she was continuously advised that there was no other choice for her.

Kayla clearly is a brilliant, creative young woman, and she is grateful that she listened to these cheerleaders and continued to develop into the amazing young woman she is today. Her support team, like her mentor/ "mother" Desiree, put a great emphasis on pursuing an education. Kayla admits that now that she is in college, she truly sees the importance of education and the doors that it can open.

Kayla currently is a junior at Mercy College where she is working hard to obtain her Bachelor's in Psychology. Kayla plans to eventually earn a Master's Degree, then a Doctoral Degree and go on to be a Psychologist.

Kayla admits college has not been easy, and she is very proud of how far she has come. Kayla believes that if it wasn't for ADP, she would not be as far as she is today. Kayla is grateful for the support that is provided to her through ADP and is determined to give herself a bright future.

Characteristics

Optimistic

Ambitious

Quirky

Quote

"Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them - that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things move naturally forward in whatever way they like." - Lao Tzu

Hobbies & Interests

Shopping

Photography

Eating

Exploring new places

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

"It's not about where you go, it's about what you do when you get there. And, although it's important to try your best to stay on top of everything, don't overwork yourself."

**LAGUARDIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2016

Dylan

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Characteristics

Resilient

Persistent

Courageous

Quote

“With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgment always let him lead you and he will clear the path for you.”-Proverbs 3:5-6

Hobbies & Interests

Acting

Rock climbing

Dancing

Writing

Swimming

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

“Don’t get entangled in what the world is telling you. Do your own research and make your own decisions. Apply yourself and make yourself available to the opportunities around you.”

Dylan was placed in foster care a month after her thirteenth birthday. Shortly after entering foster care, she was also separated from her siblings. Feeling alone and abandoned, she began to lose all hope as she was moved from one foster home to another. During this time, Dylan felt as though she was on her own, with no support. Dylan is a bright young woman—her intelligence and curiosity is clear from the moment she smiles and speaks. But when she moved from home to home, she struggled in school and faced failing her classes. Instead of accepting this path, became more proactive in her education, and she started using school as a way to empower and improve herself.

Dylan is now in her sophomore year at LaGuardia Community College where she majors in Criminal Justice. This has been an exceptional year for Dylan. She has excelled in her courses, she has balanced work and school and this year, she has been featured in multiple news stories capturing her success as a college student.

Even though Dylan is soaring to success, she admits that time management continues to be one of her biggest challenges. She believes that she is able to overcome this frustration thanks to ADP and her relationship with God.

Dylan is proud that she has been able to grow and change into a positive, cheerful and successful young woman. She dreams of using her voice and experience to fight for social justice as a Defense Attorney, where she can help those in need.

Jade
ACCOUNTING



Jade entered foster care when she was 15 years old. Jade admits that she has been through some terrible things, but she has always been able to make a good situation out of a bleak one. Jade’s outgoing personality, perseverance and cheerful demeanor emphasize her ability to beat the odds and make anything possible for herself and her family. Despite the hardships and difficulties Jade experienced as a child, Jade has already made great strides in creating a better future for herself and for her son, Connor, who is named after one of her favorite movie characters.

Jade’s strength and determination has brought her to where she is today. Graduating from college would be a milestone for Jade—she would be the first person in her family to achieve this accomplishment. And graduating from college will definitely happen for Jade. Jade is an amazing self-advocate, and she is also great at balancing motherhood, work and school. Jade is a positive role model for all students, and she will continue to serve as a inspiration to her family.

Jade currently is in her freshman year at BMCC and is pursuing a degree in accounting. Jade is a numbers fanatic, and she sees this strength as a skill that will make her stand out when she steps into her formal career. Jade can see herself being a successful woman in many roles—as a teacher, a business woman, a veterinarian or even as an event planner.

Jade is proud that she has been able to overcome all of the obstacles that have been in her way. Jade credits the support she gets from ADP and from her fiancé for helping her be exactly who she wants to be. Jade is grateful to be part of ADP.

**BOROUGH OF
MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
CLASS OF 2019

Characteristics

Strong
Happy
Determined

Quote

“Through God all things are possible”-Matthew 19:28

Hobbies & Interests

Spending time with her son
Event planning

**Advice for Future
College Bound Youth**

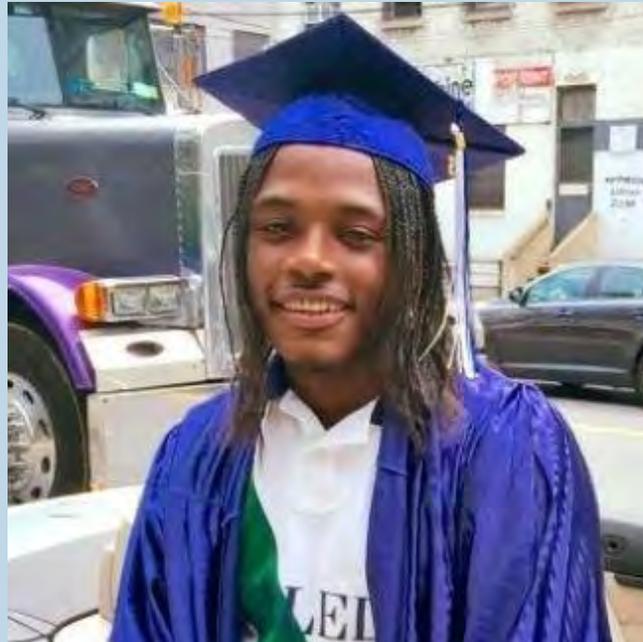
“Don’t waste time trying to figure out when is the best time to start college. There is never a right time and no perfect moment, you just have to go for it.”

MONROE COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2019

Tyon

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Characteristics

Hardworking
Strong
Dedicated

Quote

“Hard work speaks balance.”

Hobbies & Interests

Football
Lacrosse

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Stay focused, have fun, and try your best to network and build connections.”

Tyon entered into foster care in the fall of 2008. Despite the challenges surrounding him in his personal and family life, Tyon remained focused on his education and was determined to go to college. Tyon credits sports, especially football, for keeping him on track while he was in high school. In high school, Tyon was a star running back. He liked that football provided him with stability, a schedule and a purpose, and he hopes to call himself a college athlete in the future.

Tyon was driven to go to college to give himself better opportunities in the future, and he was also determined to be the first one of his mother’s children to go to college. Tyon wants to prove to himself that he can succeed despite his circumstances and prove to others that preconceived notions of youth in foster care are wrong—he is not another statistic.

Tyon currently is a freshman at Monroe College where he is studying Business Administration. Tyon has had an amazing first semester at college. He has adjusted to the expectations of his professors, the commuting and the rigorous schoolwork. Next semester, Tyon hopes to live on campus and also practice with the football team.

While Tyon’s dream job is to be a running back in the NFL, he also wants to eventually obtain his PHD and open up his own physical therapy practice for professional athletes. Tyon is thankful for the opportunity to be in ADP and believes that ADP has been able to turn his dreams into reality and will continue to help him to overcome any obstacles.

Nate

LIBERAL ARTS



Nate came into foster care in the summer of 2011. His transition into foster care was not easy, and it helped having baseball to turn to when he felt alone, overwhelmed and frustrated. For Nate, there was another way that baseball helped him stay on track. There has always been a special connection between baseball and education, but that connection has changed as he has grown up. For the first few years of high school, Nate would tackle his school work just to ensure his spot on the baseball team. Nate was a star athlete, and he knew that good grades would keep his spot on the team.

During his senior year, Nate realized that the lessons he learned on baseball were also helping his success in the classroom. Baseball taught Nate leadership, respect and the importance of education. Instead of being just an athlete, Nate aspired to be a scholar athlete and play baseball in college. Nate knew that he would benefit from continuing to play the sport he loved while also gaining a wealth of knowledge that he can use to create a better future.

Nate is now a freshman at Borough of Manhattan Community College where he is a Liberal Arts major. He plans on changing his major to Sports Management. Nate is navigating how to balance baseball with his studies, and he still aspires to be a professional baseball player. Despite the glamour that fame has to offer, Nate says he will never forget where he came from. Nate is passionate about using success to help out the community and give back to others in need. If he is unable to be a professional baseball player, Nate would love to be involved in the baseball as either a coach or a manager.

Nate is proud to be a Scholar in ADP and is proud that he has made it so far. He admits that high school was tough, and he had doubts that he would be able to make it to college. Nate has the determination, positive attitude and heart to achieve his American Dream.

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASS OF 2019

Characteristics

Generous
Thoughtful
Kind

Quote

“It ain't over til it's over.”

-Yogi Berra

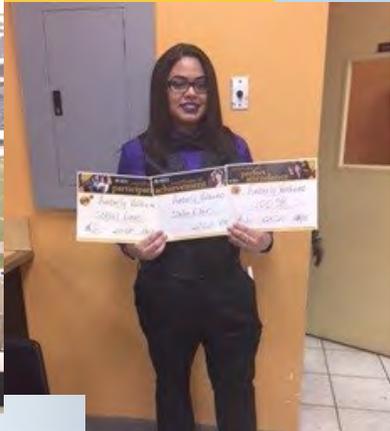
Hobbies & Interests

Wrestling
Baseball

Advice for Future College Bound Youth

“Once you make it to college,
the journey doesn't stop, keep
striving for success.”

ADP Memories: 2015



The American Dream Program

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of the ADP College Scholars who shared their stories, dreams and memories in order to help the HSVS team create the 2015-2016 ADP Yearbook.

We would also like to thank the donors who have invested in the dreams of our ADP College Scholars. Without your support, our young people would not have the same opportunity to focus on their academics and achieve long-term success.



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