

Juvenile Reentry: Allow Me to Reintroduce Myself

Full Length Video Transcript

00:43

CODY: When I was in to my partying and drinking days, when I was too young to be doing it, 13 to 15, I was looking up to 23 year old people. They were just leading me to do these stupid things. If I needed money their, their answer would be oh just go sell... go sell these drugs and the whole time I'm thinking they're caring about me, you know? They're trying to help me; they're making me a better person; they're making me a businessman. I was getting positive reinforcement for doing it, which made- in my head, made me think like, I'm doing the right thing.

01:16

MIRANDA: I always knew the reason behind why I acted out; no one really ever cared to ask. I have a history of abuse, so... I didn't even start talking about it until right before I got put into placement.

01:31

WILLIAM SANCHEZ: When people judge you for your past, they have to understand that that part of your life, or that stage in your life, you were going through conflict, you were going through difficulty - not only internally within yourself, but externally like in your community. What program you're in, what school you're in- you know? That whole bureaucracy has an impact on a young man or woman.

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NINA SCHMIDBAUR: And some of the youth that I've worked with have had experiences that I could have never overcome so that's something to keep in mind, when you're hearing their stories they can be horrific and its miraculous that they're standing before you.

02:07

MIRANDA: My son's name is Christopher, he's 16 months old. I lost my daughter when I was 5 months pregnant with him. Her name is Riley. When I found out I was pregnant with my son was when I started really focusing on like, our future. I enrolled in a GED program. I took the first test right before my daughter passed away, and then I took the second test in August and I found out that I got my GED. I pushed through what will be the hardest time in my life and I was able to make it count and I was able to finish it for the babies that I started it for.

02:48

WILLIAM SANCHEZ: Your community is where you live. Building relationships is critical to that. And understanding that your friendships, your guidance, your support with one

another- it's a resource, not only just as an external kind of influence, but internally people are more likely to trust and even go through difficulty and conflict in their life when they know sincerely, internally, that these people- these individuals are genuine, they do care about me. They don't want to bring up a negative issue with me. But if, if they care enough about me they might say something to me and hopefully to improve or for me to change my behavior or to address an issue that is not necessarily healthy.

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NINA SCHMIDBAUR: And when the youth comes back to their home community they oftentimes find a lack of support. And so, it's a opportunity for adults to step in and be role models and be supportive to those youth who need someone to guide them.

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CODY: When I face something in life, that you know, that might get me angry I might be like you know what let me, let me call my mentor. I trust what he says and I listen to what he says. There's no doubt in my mind that when he tells me something that's, in his opinion, the best way to handle a situation.

04:12

NINA SCHMIDBAUR: Its very moving um, when a child's in placement and they begin to dream for the first time. And they may come from horrific circumstances where every adult in their life has told them again and again that they will fail or that they will go to jail. That's what we hear a lot that the outcome is either that you will die on the streets or that you will go to prison. So to hear that same child dreaming for the first time of graduating high school, of going to college, of going to graduate school of being successful, is incredibly powerful.

04:45

WILLIAM SANCHEZ: Young men and women need guidance, they need uh, you know? That kind of support. They need that consistency of somebody engaging in conversation, and to try to understand and see where the individual is coming from.

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MIRANDA: If people took the time to actually look deeper, they would find a lot more.

05:08

WILLIAM SANCHEZ: It's about making life better because no one has to try to make life bad- that's always tossed around. It's about how you keep making it better.

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NINA SCHMIDBAUR: Bottom line is we all need someone to believe in us, and we as adults can perhaps be that first individual to provide that youth with positive affirmations

05:36

MIRANDA: Allow me to reintroduce myself

CODY: Allow me to reintroduce myself

MIRANDA: I'm Miranda. I'm a twenty one year old mother of two.

CODY: My name is Cody and I'm from Dover Plains, New York and I'm a die-hard Buffalo Bills fan.

MIRANDA: I am extremely passionate about everything that I do

CODY: I want to be a correctional officer.

MIRANDA: I'm strong-willed, but sensitive.

CODY: I want to help youth that may be troubled, that may be living in the same situations that I have lived in my life.

MIRANDA: I'm everything that I want to be.

60 SECOND VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

00:10

WILLIAM SANCHEZ: When people judge you for your past, they have to understand that stage in your life, you were going through conflict.

00:15

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00:18

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