



Real Children Real Hope

I'm Trevon and am 14 years old. I have a lot of anger going on in me right now. I would say it has to do with my mama's addiction to crack, being beaten, and sexually abused. All I knew during my childhood was violence, drugs and drug dealers. People wonder why I act the way I do, but when you grow up in a house like that, you learn to do what you see. After being forcefully removed from my home, I went to so many different homes- no one would keep me in their place for very long, but I guess I understand; I probably wouldn't want to keep me either. The last placement I went to was The Seven Stars Emergency Shelter at Place of Hope. At first I did nothing but blow up, yell, and try to fight the staff. I figured they would kick me out soon enough. But, they didn't. I continued to rebel knowing at some point they would break and send me packing, but they didn't. I never thought I would say this, but it's actually alright being in the same place at the Shelter. I still have a lot of anger towards my mama who wasn't a mama at all, but I'm starting to work through it. I've seen these people with so much love for me and I don't even know why they have it for me. I

hear a lot of God talk, so maybe it has something to do with God helping them love me or something like that. Despite my anger, and yes, even threatening

comments, the staff here would not give up on me. I'm starting to understand what it means for someone to actually care about me. Before, I thought I would only turn out to be a crack head like my mama, but I've seen another way to live now and believe that I will take another direction. I still have moments of rage, but I have come a long way and I feel that I am taking one step closer to letting go of the chains that have held me back for so long.

Dear Faithful Partner,



As you can see in Trevon's heartbreaking words, the heavy chains of abuse, neglect, and anger can have devastating impacts.

However, breaking them apart is a truly attainable goal. Trevon's experiences and life story (thus far) are not unique. In fact, the overwhelming majority of children entering our care today have been victims of unspeakable crimes and emotional rejection. Thankfully, our Seven Stars Emergency Shelter is providing a critical safety net and bridge toward healing and renewal for many of our community's neediest young boys. Healing and new beginnings are possible. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Blessings to You!

Charles L. Bender III
Founding Executive Director



Placing Hope In A
Child's Future™

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