

## The Future of Job Corps

Personal growth is a part of life that we as human beings have to go through. Whether the outcome is good or bad the situations that we go through shape and mold us into who we are today. Who I was before, who I am now, and who I will become in the future is all up to me. Whether or not I want to take all the events in my life that have happened in a positive way or negative way is also completely up to me as well. Before I came to Job Corps I wasn't sure of who I was, now I know what I want to do and where I want to go. I know that because I was born and continue living each year. God has already given me the chance of becoming something greater than what other people or myself limits me to be because he gave me the gift of a supportive mother and father. This center has shown me who I am not.

My story starts four years ago before my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday my family had moved to Mexico. I was curious to how my new life would be in a country I knew nothing about really. My family was from there and a good amount of my family lives in Mexico but that was all I knew about this strange new place. As the months went by after I moved and I started going to school in Mexico I faced discrimination and isolation because of what I looked like and where I was born. In my peers eyes I was an odd Mexican/American girl who had no business in their turf. They would tell me the most awful things to my face that lowered my self-esteem and made me feel less than them. Three months later the bullying had gotten so bad I dropped out of school and began to go to a charter school in the United States to further my education so I could finish high school. For three years I had no friends or social life really. I was in and out of charter high schools and hated life because I found my lifestyle dissatisfying. After three years of my interpersonal struggle about living in Mexico and other situations that went on my mother

decided to move back to the United States. I remember the day we moved back it was raining and I was so happy but my struggles didn't go away. I enrolled in Options for Youth and there I started to make some friends and begin to catch up in credits however their system didn't work for my learning style. I was a slow reader and my instructors were overloading me with work. They signed me up for too many classes and each packet that they would give me was equal to one credit. When they first explained this to me it sounded good but when I saw how thick the packets were it was too much so I dropped out. I tried going to other charter schools but I would always leave because the system didn't work for me. I felt like a quitter and a loser because when I looked in the mirror I saw that I couldn't finish anything which disappointed me. I was dissatisfied with my life because it consisted of waking up and doing absolutely nothing to better my life all day. My final breaking point is when my father passed away. I loved him very much and he was the pillar that kept my family stable in every way. I knew that I had to change and do something with my life to help my mother through our financial struggle so I enrolled in Inland Empire Job Corps.

My life is completely different now. Being here at Job Corps I found out things about myself that I didn't know before. I realized that I have so many good qualities within myself which is starting to make me blossom into something new. Before I saw myself as a flower bud I had so much potential to be a beautiful flower if I were to blossom but did nothing with that potential. However now being at job Corps I am starting to blossom into a beautiful flower and I realized something. I realized the flower that I am blossoming into is a beautiful white rose. White roses resemble spirituality, purity, the coming of new beginnings, and most of all it represent a never ending/undying loyalty to the ones you hold dearest to your heart. This is who I realized I am becoming at Job Corps. I realized I am a strong willed women with a lot of fight in me when

it comes to what I want to accomplish in life. I also realized that I am bigger than what I thought I was and that I have no limits. My older brother told me once that within every man there is a machine with limitless potential, which I know to be true now. I am now studying my trade Medical administrative assistant and I am also catching up in credits in high school. In addition I also passed the Hi-Set/GED test. I am now proud of myself because I'm changing my life and my destiny as speak today. I have more faith in myself than I have ever had in my entire life. I see now how independent I am and how capable I am of leading my own life down the path of success.

In the future I picture myself going to college and studying phlebotomy. The medical field is my new found passion. With that being said after I finish studying phlebotomy I want to further my education and get my degree in neuropsychology. Sometime during this period of time that I am studying I want to move to Colorado with my mother. I plan to buy a cabin in a forest near a lake and have my mother move in with me. I want to raise my family and grow old in Colorado. It has been my dream for a while now and I know I am fully capable of making all my dreams come true.

Yesterday was history, the future is a mystery, but today is a gift and that is why it is called the present. I learned to live by this saying being here at Job Corps. I know that the rest of my adventure here at Job Corps will teach me many new things because people come here to learn and to teach others as well. Believe it or not you can learn many things from the trainees here at Inland Empire Job Corps. Job Corps is slowly guiding me into being an independent adult and giving me hope for a brighter future for myself.