

HOW JOB CORPS EFFECTED MY LIFE

One day I was sitting at home and I called my sister to ask her about Job Corps. At the time, she was attending classes there. She told me how Job Corps gave her everything she went for and got her a job. It changed her life and she was doing well. This made me decide to call.

Shortly after I called, I started school at New Orleans Job Corps. At first I was scared, not only because I did not know how I would do but also I was not sure I was mentally ready. It had been years since I had been in school but I was determined to go all the way this time. I looked at Job Corps like it was a second chance at life so I decided to take full advantage of everything they had to offer me such as high school, dental, and drivers' license.

Just thinking about how far I have come brings tears to my eyes. I was homeless with four children and a broken car. I was moving from house to house. My aunt put me out of her house so I had to go stay with my friend. Then my mother decided to take me back. Through all that, I have refused to give up on me. I kept pushing and pushing myself. When I started Job Corps, my counselor helped me with housing. Now I have a place to live, transportation, and my kids are doing well. My teachers are very supportive and even the directors are supportive as well. This is what makes me enjoy it the most. The support system here is awesome. There is not a day that I wake up and do not want to go to school, that's how much I really enjoy school. Job Corps is the best thing they have created especially for people like me looking for a second chance at life.

During my experience at Job Corps, I have met a lot of different people. Most of the people here have made a big difference in my life. They have helped me work through my problems. They gave me advice on school and my life. They listened to me. They were

concerned about me and that makes me feel like I am more than a student. It makes me feel like I have a friend or a second family who are a positive role model to me.

When I was going to public school, it was nothing like Job Corps. They moved too fast for me to keep up; it got really hard because I got so far behind. I did not have the help I needed and worst of all no one was willing to help me. Those experiences helped me to appreciate what I have. Here they actually take time to help me; they actually care if I am successful. That is the best part though; not only do they care but they show it action. Some instructors have stayed after school to help me finish my goals.

I tell all my family and friends about Job Corps in the hope that they make the decision I made so they can change their lives into something amazing. I know they will be glad they came as well. That is all I want to do now; to finish school and tell others what Job Corps is doing for me. Only if you experience Job Corps would you feel the same way I do about this wonderful place.

I like everything about the program. There are two breaks during the year. At other times everyone come together as one big happy family. Sometimes there we do different things like having outside gatherings with DJ's, food, or different productions like talent shows. At Christmas we are told to bring our kids to school to meet Santa. There are all types of different functions. The teachers are amazing also. They do not just look at us as students but as young adults trying to make a better life for ourselves. I think that should be that way because a lot of us have had bad times. If life were different, we would not be here in the first place.

Many people say that I and other Job Corps students should have finished public school like a everyone else but who can say how life is supposed to be. Everybody has their own view of how life is supposed to be. Job Corps is a way for high school dropouts to have a second

chances at life. The counselors and instructors are helping me with looking for a job in my field of culinary arts.

Who can say what the correct order of life is? Life takes people through different things. On so many levels, Job Corps has changed my life. I can honestly say it is one of the best things that have happened to me. And the best is yet to come!