

The Future of Job Corps

William Franklin

Without a doubt, where I have been has made me the person I am today. My medical problems separated me from what I would call a normal childhood. I was born with a bleeding disorder and spent a good part of my childhood in the hospital. As I look back at it now, it may sound strange, but I am kind of grateful my mother and father were drug addicts, since my grandparents took care of me for most of my early life when I wasn't in the hospital.

Unfortunately, when I reached the age of five my grandmother passed away, and my grandfather felt he was not able to take care of my younger sister and me. Without any questions, my sister and I were put into the foster system. We were together with a foster family for only a year before being separated, and I haven't seen my sister since I was six years old. I went on to spend four years in a group home before I was adopted by Yvonne and Melvin Franklin. I came to love them as my true mother and father.

Growing up I was an angry child because my biological parents had abandoned me. Originally, I felt as though the world had taken them from me, but I was young and did not understand the choices they made were the reason for my sorrow at that time. I used to sit and think, I have one sister, two brothers, and one mother who doesn't love us. If she did not want us, then why didn't my parents ever use birth control? I felt ashamed to have ever complained about the struggles I had been through in life.

On September 29, 2009 my father, Melvin D. Franklin, passed away. I was emotionally torn apart and becoming out of control. I was getting into trouble at school and on the streets until my brother, Chad, took me in. He changed my life for the better when we moved to Washington, D.C. Chad showed me what it meant to be a man and how life would be full of adversities, but the only way to overcome them was not to quit.

I continued to live with my brother until I finished high school. Throughout my years in high school my brother did his best to explain that education was the key to life. He pushed me daily to focus in school, and eventually he began to get through to me. I joined the ROTC program which taught me to develop my character and be dedicated to serve the community and our nation.

After graduating high school on June 18, 2015, I enrolled in the Job Corps program to further improve my life. I have no interest in being in Job Corps to make friends because my first priority is to be successful in life. Life can be hard, no doubt, but if you don't do what you have to do, you won't reach your goals. No one is going to do it for you, so you must do what is necessary no matter what.

When I leave Job Corps, I plan to enter college to further my education. Where I am going in life may not be perfect, but I am going to make sure it is what I want. Life is full of choices. In the end you have to make the choices about what you want, how you are going to get it, and when. Just decide!