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How Job Corps Saved My Life

I would like to tell you how Job Corps saved my life, you can also say saved me from myself. Since I've been here I've made big changes in myself and in my life. Westover motivated me for the changes I've made, and now I have plans for a career and a "normal" life after I complete.

Before I came to Westover I was doing all the wrong things. I was going through a lot and the only way I knew how to cope was drugs. The lifestyle I was living could have landed me in jail or killed me. I hated the way I was living. I didn't know how to stop because I didn't have anything to motivate me or keep me grounded. I was in and out of recovery, but I knew I needed something more. Then I remembered how my brother kept trying to talk me into going to Job Corps. He graduated Pharmacy Tech. at Westover and earned himself a career in Boston 5 years ago. He now works at Dana Farber Cancer Institute as a compound technician. I thought about it and figured it's the only option I have left so I made the call.

From the moment I was accepted I was instantly motivated and ready to make a change. I was also scared of the unknown. I didn't know what it was going to be like nor did I know what the people were going to be like, or if I would be accepted by the other students. I stopped using on my own, cold turkey. I knew I couldn't keep using or I was never going to do the right thing at Job Corps. Since I've been here I made four months clean. I came here with absolutely nothing. No family, friends, clothes, or supplies. I knew I had to work for it. So the moment I got on campus I was immediately grateful for the chance to change and work toward getting what I need. I was also more positive with a better perception of life. Sometimes it gets hard being here. Not everyone gets along, waking up early, and just living a life with rules to follow get hard sometimes. Resigning has crossed my mind, but I'm sure everyone has those days. Only the strong survive and I'm willing to be strong and fight for the life I want to live, for a better future. I'm willing to deal with whatever life throws at me. From day one I've changed and every day I try to make small changes to add up to a big change in the end. I say all the time "the only person I have to be better than is the person I was yesterday". When I got here I was always in a bad mood and yelling about something. I've calmed down a lot and I'm always laughing and having fun. I know how to ignore drama and keep to myself when I have to. This is the last chance I have to fix my life and I won't give that up for anyone or anything. I chose to study Pharmacy Tech. and I got accepted in the trade. I plan on completing and graduating. To get what you want you need to work for it. I want a good future so I'm working hard to get there.

I don't like projecting because tomorrow is never promised. I also like to keep my head where my feet are. Given the situation and where I am I do think about my future. I plan on getting my work done in Pharmacy Tech. and getting my certification. I've already been working hard. Pharmacy is a long hard trade. I'm on chapter 8 in the book and I'm 11.21% done. I think

about myself completing and how accomplished I will feel. Also how proud my family will be, and I'm fighting for my family to believe in me again. It's hard to gain back the trust of people when all they think is that I'm always going to be the active drug addict that they are used to seeing, But I'm fighting for everyone to see the change in me and to know I'm serious about my life. Nothing is appreciated when it's handed to you. I know the hard work will pay off and I'll appreciate life that much more.

I will forever be grateful for Westover Job Corps for giving me the environment I needed to be able to make the change I need to make, and saving me from myself. Everyone always thinks I'm crazy when I say that I like it here. Yes, it gets hard to deal with sometimes but it is so worth it. It is still better than where I came from. Coming to Westover Job Corps was a big change in my life but it was a change I needed. I don't regret my decision at all. Every time I'm having a bad day I think about my future and how much I need this. I see myself working hard in my career and moving up. I'm going to continue be open minded and open to learn more. As long as I keep up with studying my trade I can one day become a Pharmacist. No matter what when I leave here and complete I will have a better life than I came in with.