



MEET OUR YOUTH Jarid

Jarid entered foster care when he was 12 years old. His older brother, concerned for everyone's safety, alerted the authorities about their drug-addicted mother. Foster care was hard. "I never felt like I belonged or was welcomed with that foster family," commented Jarid. After turning out at age 18, Jarid was on his own. Society said he was an adult and able to care for his own needs. Yet he was lost. Jarid struggled, moving around to live with friends and extended family members—whomever would take him once the friend or family member



before stated he wore out his welcome. Yet Jarid had dreams and goals, but how to get there? He wanted to go to college and make something of his life. But how?

“*Project Independence has given me stability, mentoring, and coaches to help me meet my goals. Someday, I will own my own business and make enough money to travel!*”

Jarid, age 20

Jarid heard about *Project Independence*, a transitional housing program for former foster youth where he could receive support and encouragement on his path to successful adulthood. He joined the program in 2015.

Today, Jarid is on the right track! He works a part-time job in Temecula and is attending a community college pursuing a degree in Mass Communication. Like many of our foster youth,

Jarid is also passionate about giving back to the community. He volunteers his time speaking to other foster youth and the community about his life, his experience with Rancho Damacitas, and what he believes his future now holds. Thanks to the support of our generous Champion donors, Jarid is achieving his goals and on the right path to becoming a thriving, contributing member of our community.