



MEET OUR YOUTH Achaia



Achaia, 21 years old, is an amazing young man with incredible talent and energy, and he is a young man who has already overcome so much. Achaia entered foster care around the age of 5. As a child, he battled partial deafness, wore hearing aids, and underwent multiple surgeries. He still has some hearing loss, but that has never slowed him down from pursuing his dreams!

Now a high school graduate and full-time student with 16 units at a local community college, Achaia is pursuing his dream and majoring in Graphic Design with a minor in Dance. He is motivated, entrepreneurial and ambitious. Within his first week of moving into Project Independence, Rancho Damacitas' transitional living program for former foster youth, Achaia landed a job at a local sub shop. Last year, Achaia competed in a national dance competition and won! As a result, he was selected to be a back-up Judge for a national dance company with opportunities to travel around the United States.

Achaia now works at a local winery while balancing his heavy workload schedule. He continues to pursue a career in Graphic Design and Dance, volunteers as a Dance Instructor teaching local children at a middle school. Like we said earlier, Achaia is an amazing young man. Thanks to Project Independence, Achaia has been able to receive the stability, guidance and opportunities to build independent living skills needed for success.

Gracious donors such as yourself are what make these opportunities for Achaia and many other foster youth possible. **Thank you!**