



A STORY OF HOPE & EMPOWERMENT

Demarius Turner grew up in the foster care system and was left to fend for himself at only 18 years old. As a young man living on the streets, Demarius had a lot working against him, but one of his biggest challenges was hearing loss. He remembered, “I had times when I wanted to give up, when I wanted to kill myself. No one was there to help me.”

“ I was going house to house, sleeping outside on the porch, staying up late, walking the streets, walking through Walmart. ”

Without the support of caring adults, he never received proper treatment for his disability and was never taught sign language. School became so challenging that Demarius was forced to drop out during his junior year. His family, unable to accept his LGBT status, didn't offer guidance. He was left isolated and wandering the streets. “I was going house-to-house, sleeping outside on the porch, staying up late, walking the streets, walking through Walmart.”

Luckily, his brother introduced him to Pathfinders and he was accepted into Q-BLOK, a program for LGBT youth in need of housing.

For Demarius, stable housing meant that he was able to address his health care needs—a luxury that had always been out of reach. The team at Pathfinders helped Demarius obtain hearing aids for the first time. “It was hard to find a job because of my hearing, but after going to Pathfinders... everything changed,” he said.

“ I don't know what I would do if Pathfinders stopped everything. Without Pathfinders I wouldn't be where I am now. ”

Now Demarius is a peer specialist in our Drop-In Center offering support and guidance to other young people in similar situations. “I have a lot of youth who talk to me. I'm never going to sit here and judge you if you have nowhere to go; I've been through it too. I've been down that road before.”



Demarius working at Pathfinders Youth Job Fair

It would be hard to imagine anyone as grateful as Demarius. He said, “To be honest, I love it! I don't know what I would do if Pathfinders stopped everything. Without Pathfinders I wouldn't be where I am now.”

With your gift to Pathfinders this holiday season, you can make a huge impact in the lives of young people like Demarius by offering them hope and a chance at a successful adulthood.

2016 YEAR-TO-DATE IMPACT DATA*

4,525

Youth & Young Adults
received services



3,894

Youth on the streets were
engaged by Pathfinders
Street Beat Team.

95%

of Street Beat clients
reduced their risk of
being trafficked.



180

Youth received
supportive housing or
shelter services.

92%

of Youth Shelter clients
had a successful exit back
to their home or safe
alternative.

*Data through September 30, 2016

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“With the ability to house a youth for two weeks, aftercare when the youth’s stay is up, therapists for residents (and nonresidents), and the opportunity for previous residents of the shelter to return as Peer Volunteers—Pathfinders truly is an amazing organization.”

—Arlyn Reynolds, Volunteer at Pathfinders Youth Shelter

259

Amazing Volunteers

15,319

Hours Volunteered

\$340,388

Value of Their Time



PATHFINDERS NEWS



Pathfinders Youth Organize Job Fair For Their Peers

Youth in our “Pathways to Employment” program hosted a job fair for youth aged 25 and under on October 14. It was an incredibly successful first event, with 12 employers and over 200 youth attending!



Pathfinders Celebrates the Opening Of New S.E.C.

Pathfinders was thrilled to welcome the community to see our brand new Pathfinders Southeastern Education Center at our Grand Opening Ceremony on September 20.



WUWM Hosts Community Conversation at Pathfinders

On October 17, WUWM 89.7 hosted a community conversation at Pathfinders on sexual assault. WUWM broadcasted portions of the conversation the following day, along with a recap on their website.

Check out Pathfinders’ new blog on our website for more in-depth updates.
Pathfindersmke.org/blog