

Now a U.S. Diplomat –

"It is clear that Walt and his team really care about the development of the youth who pass through their doors. During my three years at Challengers, I was able to learn the crucial skills I needed to live independently: how to obtain vital documents and how to manage my finances; how to balance work and study; and most importantly, how to be a productive citizen contributing to society. Challengers is not just an independent living program, but the people there are family! I reflect on my time at Challengers, even now as I serve our country as a U.S. Diplomat overseas. Thank you and keep up the good work!"

- Tavon C.

A Masters Graduate –

"At the ripe age of seventeen, the thought of living independently and attending college was daunting. This caused a great deal of stress for me as I was forced to make a decision about where I would go after leaving a foster home. However, after entering Challengers, attending college and living independently became an attainable reality and not an unsolvable problem. From the tremendous amount of support that I was provided by Mr. Walt, the social workers and the counselors, I was able to achieve my goals and so much more. Through the information that I learned through weekly check-ins, team meetings, and additional support, I navigated my way successfully through college while maintaining consistent employment and housing.

Challengers' social workers assisted me in opening my first bank account, purchasing my first car, and signing my first apartment lease. The continued support and resources of the Challengers program helped me to attend and graduate from Towson University with a Bachelors of Science degree, and a Masters of Science Degree in Teaching Bilingual Special Education from George Washington University. Upon finishing the Challengers program and aging out of foster care, I was able to establish a stable living situation and a bank savings account of \$10,000. Also, the program has inadvertently created a network of peers with which I will forever be able to share a bond of gratitude for Challengers and the opportunities it has afforded to us."

– Rasheda W.



IT'S A CHALLENGE NOT A PROBLEM

Contact us today to make a contribution that will change the future of a child for a lifetime and beyond!

 **Challengers Independent Living**
"It's a Challenge, not a problem"

Your contributions along with Challengers efforts can help a child to matriculate from the edge of poverty and/or homelessness to success and a college degree.

A Summa Cum Laude Graduate and holder of a Master's Degree -

"Challengers Independent Living program has helped me to become the woman and the social work professional that I am today! I entered the program as a young, eager, bright-eyed 17 year old ready to face the world and to create my destiny. It was through the dedicated and passionate Challengers staff and team that helped and guided me to the real-world skills I needed to successfully age out of foster care. The Challengers program enabled me to attend driving school, obtain my learner's permit, graduate from college Summa Cum Laude, sign my first apartment lease, enter graduate school, and age out of foster care with over \$18,000 in my savings account; among many other notable accomplishments.

The personal growth I achieved while in the program came by way of the great support system provided by Mr. Walt and the Challengers family, who even at crucial times reminded me that I was a star and to simply take a break to breathe. I am now 23 years old with a Master's Degree in Social Work, and am employed by the State of Maryland, Baltimore City Child Protective Services Sex Abuse Unit. Seeing that I now have been able to successfully navigate into a life of contributing to the community, I have decided to dedicate my career work to ensuring the safety of children, and assisting children and their families with overcoming their obstacles. Through my work I strive to pass along a message that helped me along my journey – "It's a Challenge, not a problem."

- Loney Nguyen

Challengers Independent Living Program is geared towards the ultimate success of the children who participate in our program. We boast an impressive level of positive outcome statistics and success stories in support of our mission. Challengers strives to not only maintain, but increase, this level of positive impact on the foster youth communities we serve.

Join our team of contributors and supporters who continue to provide the funding and resources necessary to open doors, change lives, and ensure successful & promising futures for our at-risk and in-need children.

**"IT'S A CHALLENGE
NOT A PROBLEM"**



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