



#HOUSING

#SOCIALJUSTICE

#HEALTH

#INCOME

VOICES OF BOSS

WHERE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!



Voices of BOSS

We Want To Hear From YOU!

Hello and welcome to the 1st BOSS Participant Newsletter: Voices of BOSS! This is all about YOU! Here we will feature stories that are written ABOUT and BY the people we serve. Please SHARE YOUR STORIES! Voices of BOSS is a newsletter about the things that matter to you - your own story, struggle and successes - your ideas for how to improve social service programs and create more opportunities for people in need - even poetry, artwork, and anything you want to share!

TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR VOICES OF BOSS, send them in writing to the program manager where you receive BOSS services. The DEADLINE for the next quarterly issue will be January 31, 2016

Hello McKinley,

I'm so excited I have a full time job. I was part time now I am full time just after four days. I love my job and all the people there are so nice. I have been out of prison for exactly five months. I have been in the B.O.S.S. Program for four and a half. It took four and a half months to find a full time job, but it was well worth the wait. This job is way better than Block By Block or any other job I applied for. I will be making a little over a thousand dollars every two weeks. I get paid holidays off, Kaiser Permanente health insurance, and a Costco membership. After 90 days I join the union. All my dreams of supporting my children and being self sufficient are coming true. This time last year I was in Chino State Prison in the hole; hopeless and not knowing my future. All I knew was that I would never come back to prison again. I didn't know how I was going to do that until I joined the B.O.S.S. Program. If it wasn't for you and everyone else at B.O.S.S. I would probably be back in jail by now. You guys never gave up on me, even when I felt like giving up. When I didn't get a job I wanted, you just brushed it off and kept me moving forward. I felt discouraged a few times but you guys stayed positive and told me "don't give up." I'm so thankful for all of your help and for treating me like a human not a criminal. I made mistakes in the past but now I have the tools to succeed. I will never commit another crime again. The B.O.S.S. Program gave me a second chance at life; a life I never knew I could have. For the first time in my life I'm going to be self sufficient. I don't have to depend on anyone. I'm going to be paying my own rent, buying my own groceries, and buying presents for my children at Christmas. I'm never looking back at my old life, only forward. I wish you the best in your new job and can't thank you enough for all your guidance and help.

Thank you
Gary B.

My name is Dantu Evans. I am a 26 year old African American male who has experienced a variety of challenges and difficulties throughout my brief life. Due to my ideology and beliefs, I fell prey to the streets of South Central. Street gangs, violence, and drugs have all been a part of my ordeal; you name it, I can claim it. As a troubled youth from South Central my parents would send me to Oakland to avoid the trouble in which I was desperately attempting to get into as a youth. Ironically, when the time came to make a conscious decision to turn my life around and simply do the right thing, it was in Oakland... and then came the BOSS experience.

I arrived at BOSS with an open mind, willing to make changes in my life that would be conducive to maintaining my freedom and providing for my family. BOSS provided me with the tools, techniques, and options to prevail. My efforts have demonstrated to myself and others that I do possess the capacity to be a positive, productive member of society. I am currently employed through V-Force as a warehouse/demolitions person. I am able to hold my head up high, appreciative of my past experiences, knowing they molded me into the person I am TODAY...

In closing I'd like to thank BOSS and its staff members for the vital role in which they played at a critical moment in time. To Eunice, Ronald, Shahid, McKinley, Lloyd and Dennis, much thanks for the guidance, information and support.