

The Summer Xpress

L.A. County WIB SYEP
 Goal: 5,000
 Our Success...
 Goal Reached!!!
 Currently over 5,640 youth are enrolled

- Over 463 probation/felony youth
- Over 416 foster youth



Yvette, writer

Notes From Our Youth

Kristopher was not your average 15 year old. By the age of 16, he had started experimenting with a drug called crystal-meth with a few friends. Kristopher was addicted to the drug for about 8 years. During this time, he managed to stay on the honor roll for two consecutive years, eleventh and twelfth grade. Kristopher graduated from Phoenix Academy High School in 2003 with honors and a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.8. Kristopher managed to still get several jobs during the time of his addiction; he worked for a Hauling Company, the airport (baggage man), Belmont Burger Palace and a jewelry store. One of Kristopher's major challenges which he managed to overcome was the death of his father in 2005 and the death of his mother in 2006, both parents died as a result of alcoholism. Kristopher was heartbroken. He was only 20 years old but it seemed as if life just was not working out for him. Then Kristopher ended up getting caught by the Los Angeles Police and sent to jail for several months. Kristopher knew then that is was time for a change. As a result of a judge order, he was to attend the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) so that he could get himself clean. Once Kristopher started attending the AADAP center he stopped using drugs. After eight consecutive years, AADAP helped him immediately find a job when they knew he was ready for it. The AADAP center managed to get him a temporary job in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). As a Summer Youth employee at the AADAP center his job duties were repairing computers and



Kristopher, 24

"I enjoyed this job a lot and it's helping me to keep clean."

Kristopher

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

updating the systems. For Kristopher, this was not a major job task because he had several other jobs before this one. Kristopher says, "I enjoyed this job a lot and it's helping me to keep clean." When the youth employee program was over Kristopher was hired to work fulltime as a receptionist at the AADAP center. His new job duties are answering the phone, sort and distribute mail and assisting clients. Kristopher has now been clean for over a year. "Kristopher says, "I plan on staying that way and eventually start school again part-time so that I can pursue a career." With every paycheck that Kristopher receives he uses it to pay bills and the rest he saves. Kristopher says, "My check is helping me to survive in the real world." Kristopher is a very smart and extraordinary young man and he is an example of you can do it if you set your mind to it.



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