BUILDING A LIFE AND CAREER WITH HELP FROM RISING UP, FIVE KEYS SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS AND SMART MONEY COACHING

Jonathan (he/him/his) is 27 years old and is a SF Bay Area native. He has a strong passion for the creating and performing arts and is a recording artist. Jonathan’s parents separated when he was young, and as a result, Jonathan and his siblings would move back and forth throughout the Bay Area. Growing up, he remembers the challenges his family faced when they didn’t have sufficient funds to take care of themselves.

Eventually Jonathan and his siblings lost their family home due to a fire displacement, and this caused each of them to go their separate ways. Jonathan was fortunate to have a job and two cars and was able to keep shelter over his head during this time. For a long time, he often bounced back between friends' couches and sleeping in his car.

Jonathan heard about Rising Up through one of the city's youth access points. When he saw he was eligible, he knew it was an opportunity that could help him. Jonathan has been in Rising Up since August 2021 and has been housed for almost a year. He is currently working in the community and is also producing music in his spare time. His future goals include starting a family, opening up a business, and investing in property so he can establish generational wealth.

Since being in the program, Five Keys School and Programs has helped Jonathan with ongoing mentoring and creating a path of structure and independence. He was referred to Smart Money Coaching to help build his credit, which allowed him to obtain a loan for a car. Five Keys is also helping the youth obtain his guard card in the state of California. Jonathan is consistently contributing towards rent and is working towards the cash out incentive.

Jonathan is deeply thankful to everyone who works for and funds Rising Up. He hopes the program will continue to help those in need and that his story inspires others to utilize the program to their advantage.