

Charting The Life Course 2019

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What people like and admire about ME

- I am helpful
- I am optimistic
- I am responsible
- I am a concerned citizen
- I advocate for others

What's important to ME

- My family
- My community
- Foster children's human rights
- Dogs
- Planes
- Food
- Traveling
- Making people feel better

How to best support ME

- Extra time for tests and quizzes
- Music
- Small Spaces
- Being respectful of my goals
- Spread the word about my luggage project

Past life experiences

- Entered foster care at 9 months
- Underwent detox at birth
- Separated from my twin
- Had a stroke in Utero causing left sided weakness where I dragged my body with my right side when I started crawling
- Struggle with comprehension so my IEP supports me with school
- Both parents overdosed before I turned 4 leaving us orphaned
- Birth to three services five days a week several times a day
- We were not adopted until 4 years after birth
- Last year I create Luggage of Love- a statewide luggage donation initiative for kids in care

Obstacles

-
- Getting the word out
 - Getting DCF involved
 - Getting others to help
 - Time
 - Money
 - Family
 - Responsibilities
 - Self Care

Future Life Experiences

- Speak at the State Capital of CT (Hartford)
- Reach out to communities and organizations
- Continue trying to reach out with state legislatures and heads of DCF to collaborate
- Contact Media and agencies
- Find donors/ networking
- Contact legislators
- Further education
- Become a pilot
- Travel the World
- Family

Obstacles to avoid

- Distractions
- Lack of support
- Lack of interest by others
- Defeat
- Cynical people
- “NO”
- Believing that children should be seen and not heard

Vision for a Good Life

- To prevent foster children being transported with garbage and shopping bags or nothing
- Foster youth to have a voice and human rights
- Foster youth programs like support counseling and mentors to achieve a GOOD life
- To provide evidence based successful VISION for a GOOD LIFE
- To be able to leave a legacy for others to continue this vision

What I DON'T Want

- For the 5 thousand children in foster care to continue traveling with nothing of their own
- For foster children to be treated as second class citizens
- To repeat the cycle
- To fail

Technology

- Computer
- Internet
- Social Media

Personal Strengths & Assets

- Responsible
- Hard Worker
- Self advocate
- Don't give up
- My mothers support
 - Optimism

Relationships

- My Mother
- Family
- Friends
- Teachers
- Mentors
- Role Models



- CT KASA
- Church
- Camp
- Government
- Central Connecticut State University (CARE Scholars)
- DCF

Community Based

- Getting a non-profit ID
- Word of mouth referrals
- Funding

Eligibility Specific