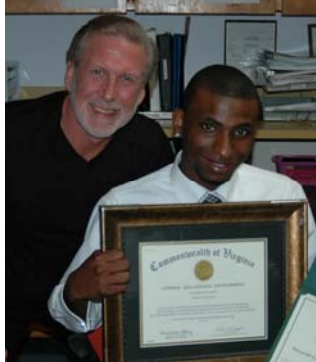




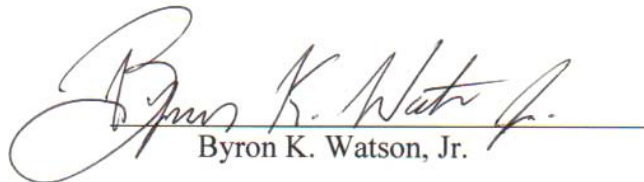
Street Outreach Programs



Well, my name is Byron, I found myself homeless and staying in the street, sleeping in buildings and just trying to survive. I was able to get a job at Popeye's while I was in the streets because my manager had gave me a chance to try it once more. While I was working I still was living in the street. I was scared of what was going to come out of all this, but I decided to go to my old school and talk to my guidance counselor about my problems. She called Project Hope and they told her to call Seton Youth Shelters Street Outreach Programs. My Guidance Counselor called David Mount and he came to interview me and ask what my future goals were. Well, after that he took me to a Winter Shelter Program at Volunteers of America and I slept at different churches for a week. The Street Outreach Program came to see me everyday and helped me maintain my job, finish my required community service from an incident when I was 17 years old and helped me get my clothes clean and shower. After David saw how serious I was about turning my life around, I went to the Seton Youth Shelters (boy's house). I had debt I had to take care of too. David helped me get a savings account, gave me rides to work and talked to me about how to pay-off all my debt. Now I'm debt free. I found out that I couldn't go back to my old school because I missed too many days and at the time I wasn't enrolled in school. David and Street Outreach Staff helped me to enroll into the Adult Learning Center. I got my GED in three weeks and just finished with my graduation ceremony. Seton Youth Shelters and the Street Outreach Programs helped me learn about Job Corps and get all the information together and took me to the open house. Right now I am on my way to Job Corps to study a trade in Business Technology, Cable Installer, and Computer Technician. I am planning on staying there for two years and then going to college after.

I stayed at Seton Youth Shelters for three months. If I wasn't at Seton Youth Shelters I feel that I would have been in jail or dead. Also, I feel very blessed to be in God's hand and him helping me get through all of this and guiding the wonderful people who helped me to myself and to others. I still keep in contact with my parents and they came to my graduation. I'll always remember how I bounced back up from the gutter into the lights of success.




Byron K. Watson, Jr.

February through May 2006

G.E.D. Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday May 16, 2006
Adult Learning Center, City of Virginia Beach Public Schools