

Everything I Am

By: Larry B.



About the Drawing: This is a portrait of myself and everything I am. I'm not just a bad kid or a felon or thief. I am so much more. I am African American. I like music, Billie Eilish, and reading books. I am an activist, independent, and a track runner. I have my faith in God. I like to write. I am looking at careers I can have as an adult, like driving a truck or cooking.

Why do I believe second chances are important? Because people make mistakes, but the problem is taking accountability for actions that you may have done without knowing how the effect made others feel.

One thing I have been struggling with since I came back home is being alone. I get scared at the idea of being alone. My whole question is when my case is over, "What am I going to do?" My biggest fear is staying in the system because I have no guardian.

Since I got out of detention, I have been so motivated to make myself happy and proud. I started work. I am so proud of myself for getting myself on the right path, making new friends, and found a better way to live life as a kid.

I feel like I am inspired to push myself to my limits because I got my grandmother and others by my side, watching me, in case I fall.

Three things I fear is being alone, not making it out of this city, and feeling like I'm losing my mother's trust.

Some advice I would give to other people like me is be true to yourself, stay focused on your goals, and let nobody knock you off your path.

What programs or people helped me get to where I'm now, I wanna say thank you to everyone that worked with me while I was downstairs. You guys push me to wanna succeed in life. My judge put faith in me and giving me a chance to prove I can come. Karen for always believing in me.

I feel like it could've been smoother if the court process wasn't so long. If I went to a group home, I might been already back home. I feel like, if I never went through what I did go through, I would never be the person I'm today.

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