

Y C A SUCCESS STORY
(Youth Crossroads' After-School Program)

“Jay”, a 7th grader, joined the YC Middle School After-School Program in 2020. At first, like almost 90% of the other participants, he was shy and quiet. It only took him a few days in the program to open up. Since then, Jay has participated in every activity we have facilitated, whether that be via Zoom or in person. He not only participates but also encourages other students around him to be more engaging. He is a great influence on students around him.

Jay told us that his mother was the one who enrolled him in “yet another virtual online program” to keep him busy, in which he thought it’d be yet “just another BORING virtual online program.” But he was wrong.

Just recently, Jay let staff know how much he loves attending the program both via Zoom and in-person. Jay said he loves how he can come to Program and forget about a stressful school day, have fun cracking jokes and doing activities. He loves the fact that we are the only program he is enrolled in that gives him both in-person and online options.

Although Jay loves the content of our Zoom program, he said he also loves being in - person with his peers and staff. It allows him to “enjoy being a kid” and gives him a “sense of normalcy in a pandemic.”

Jay said he can’t wait for our summer BUILT program to start up so he can see more of us and possibly have more in-person days. Last summer was canceled for him and he said he’s so happy his mother found Youth Crossroads. He also expressed he will be participating in our Youth Leadership Program once he goes to high school and can’t wait to be a mentor for younger kids. Jay was awarded the program’s quarterly Student Leader of the Year in 2020.

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