

# TURN IT AROUND

Turn It Around Alumni:  
Lataya Hurley

Where are they now?:  
A student at University of  
Massachusetts Boston and an  
employee at Whole Foods!



MY INVOLVEMENT IN TURN IT AROUND LASTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS, ALL THE WAY UP UNTIL MY HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION. EACH YEAR I WOULD GAIN NEW SKILLS AND EVENTUALLY WORK MY WAY UP INTO LEADERSHIP ROLES. I HELPED WITH SERVING FOOD, ORGANIZING EVENTS, AND PREPARING FOR WEEKLY MEETINGS.

MY FAVORITE PART OF TURN IT AROUND WAS WORKING THE EVENTS, ESPECIALLY THE ONE'S WHEN WE HELPED KIDS MAKE STRESS RELIEVER TOOL-KITS THAT INCLUDED GLITTER JARS, SLIME AND SELF-CARE WORKSHEETS.

TURN IT AROUND HAS HELPED ME GET TO WHERE I AM TODAY BY ALLOWING ME TO EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS BEING A PART OF A YOUTH-LED GROUP. TIA ALSO HELPED ME WITH ALL THE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES I HAD WHICH LET ME MEET A LOT OF AWESOME PEOPLE. THEY EVEN HELPED ME GET SUMMER JOBS AT HOSPITALS HELPING ME BUILD UP MY RESUME AND LEARN WHAT I WANT TO DO IN LIFE. SHOWING ME THAT THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE IN THE WORLD THAT ACTUALLY WANT TO HELP PEOPLE OF COLOR WAS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT I LEARNED FROM THE GROUP TOO WHICH GIVES ME COURAGE TO BE WHO I AM.

ADVICE I WOULD LIKE TO TELL A CURRENT YOUTH MEMBER WOULD BE TO NETWORK WITH GROUP MEMBERS AND GUEST SPEAKERS. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS, LEARN HOW TO HELP OTHERS AND TRY TO MAKE YOUR SITUATION BETTER ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE'S. ALSO BE HELPFUL, CARING , AND WILLING TO LEARN!