

Their Voice, Their Story



At a glance, Marqual's life looked like it was on track. He was a college student, pursuing a degree in music performance, playing trumpet and percussion, and even [playing the National Anthem](#) at a 2026 a Division II NCAA March Madness Game at Anderson University. But behind the scenes, stability was never guaranteed.

During his junior year at North Greenville University, his most consistent housing was at [school](#) itself. When campus was closed between semesters, he often found himself sleeping in his car or staying in hotels when he could afford it.

"I didn't like to be on the fence about where I'd lay my head at night," he shared.



A mentor who first met Marqual through music noticed what was happening and helped connect him to Pendleton Place's Transitional Living Program. At first, Marqual was unsure what to expect. Coming from foster care, he worried it would feel confining. Instead, he found [support](#) paired with [independence](#). "You can still live your own life," he said about being home at Pendleton Place.

At Pendleton Place, Marqual focused on building stability in every area—mental, emotional, financial, Marqual also was moved by simple but meaningful moments, like Christmas and birthday celebrations, surrounded by people who care and show [compassion](#).

Marqual

**"You can start over as many"
times as you need to.**

Today, Marqual is continuing his education at Anderson University, working toward his Bachelor's degree in Music Performance, with plans to [pursue a Master's degree](#) in trumpet performance. He volunteers at his church, gives back his time, and is building a life rooted in [faith](#) and [purpose](#). He says, "I'm learning to leave it in His hands," and that the most important lesson he has learned while at Pendleton Place is patience.

Marqual is continuing to work toward independence. He hopes to have a family one day, saying, "I want them to have the life I didn't get to have."

To others going through a similar situation, he says: "It's okay not to be okay, but there will be a day where you will be okay. [You can start over as many times as you need to.](#)" Marqual's journey is a reminder that even when life looks steady on the outside, many young people are navigating [challenges](#) we don't see. With the right support, those challenges can become something [transformative](#).

