

Mentorship, Target Skills pave path for student's future success

By Steven Wilson, Ed.D.



Upper School Associate principal Stan Stone (l) discusses academic life, target skills, and future goals with Upper School student Yonatan P.

An Upper School student at The Children's Home is preparing for a successful transition to his home school district after the completion of his first semester at the agency's main campus in Madisonville.

Yonatan P. is a student-client of The Children's Home's education and behavioral health treatment services.

"Some of the teachers at my other school got on my nerves," he said. "But here, they are always there for me; always [helping] me move forward."

"Yonatan's journey is one of courage and commitment," said Stan Stone, upper school associate principal at The Children's Home. "He's an English second language student, works after school and has successfully met all of his target skills. He has knocked down a lot of barriers and I can't wait to see what comes next for him."

The support from Stone, who became a mentor to the young man, made a world of difference, according to Yonatan.

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“He’s strong,” Yonatan said of his associate principal. “He helped me; he’s there for me – he even gave me words to keep going toward my target skills.”

Yonatan said the “target skills” established by Stone and other educators at the agency taught him how to concentrate on successfully navigating life’s obstacles.

“Do your work. Concentrate on yourself,” he said, when describing some of the new skill-sets he acquired. “Practice the things you need to do.”

Another “new” for Yonatan is future goals after his successful transition from The Children’s Home. When he first arrived to the nonprofit agency, he didn’t have any.

Now his future is wide-open.

“I’m going to graduate [high school] and play soccer,” he said. “After that...I’m thinking the U.S. Army.”



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