



Create Now Success Story: Demond Nelson

Demond grew up in a tough neighborhood in South Central L.A. with no father around to help guide him. He started hanging out with the wrong crowd and was in and out of detention camps starting at 12. While incarcerated at Camp Holton, he attended a Drumming and Rap Music Concert with mentor Mark Schulman and some of his friends. Right after our program ended, he wrote **Create Now** a four-page letter saying how we had impacted his life.

“ You guys had changed how I think about myself. Now I see myself really becoming something in life.” As soon as Demond was released from detention, he contacted us for more support. **Create Now** arranged for him to perform some of his rap songs and to share his story with youth that were incarcerated at Camp Miller and Camp Kilpatrick in Malibu. Being a role model for boys just a little younger motivated him even more to stay out of trouble.

We also gave him the chance to record his songs at Mark’s recording studio. Now Demond is working full-time while going to college to learn how to become a massage therapist. He also plans to become a professional security guard, while continuing to create new songs in his free time.

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