



American Dream Program

LaGuardia Community College student — who grew up in foster system — teams with Brooklyn nonprofit for academic goals

Erica Pearson | May 9, 2015



[TODD MAISEL/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS](#)

LaGuardia Community College student Dylan Tatom, 19, is one of 42 New York college students getting tuition help, room, board and other benefits—as well as counseling and support—through the American Dream Program run by HeartShare St. Vincent's Services.

FOSTER YOUTH NEED YOUR HELP TO BEAT THE CONCRETE CHALLENGES THEY FACE AS YOUNG ADULTS



Homelessness: 15% of foster youth surveyed reported an episode of homelessness. More than 54% of these reported being homeless for more than one week.



Incarceration: 59% of young women surveyed had been arrested, almost 30% had been convicted of a crime. For young men, 82% had been arrested and 58% had been convicted of a crime.



Teen pregnancy: 1/3 of young women surveyed reported being pregnant before age 18.



Unemployment: Only 46% of youth surveyed reported being "currently employed." 54% of youth surveyed reported annual income from employment of \$10,000 or less.



Education: 20% of the foster youth surveyed had no high school diploma or GED. 4% had received a degree from a 2-year college and just 3% had received a degree from a 4-year college.

Diamond H., ADP Scholar and 2016 Youth of the Year Recipient

"There's so much that I want to do.
I want to do everything!"
-Diamond H., HeartShare St. Vincent's
Services' 2016 Youth of the Year



Dea S., ADP Scholar and 2015 Youth of the Year Recipient



**"We have a voice. We are strong."
-Dea, Skidmore College Student and
American Dream Program Scholar**

Mamadou D., ADP Scholar



"HSVS was like my family and because of them, I was able to succeed." – Mamadou, HSVS' ADP Scholar

Food for Thought: How Do We Know ADP Works?



Food for Thought: How Do We Know ADP Works?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWUUpTwePtY&t=19s>

HOW TO HELP OR GET INVOLVED

Opportunities abound for both individuals and corporations to become involved in the American Dream Program.

- **Individual Donations:** The program is funded by generous contributions from a wide array of donors. We accept donations in any amount and can also work with you to arrange for multi-year giving. In addition, many companies match employee contributions to causes such as the American Dream Program, which can be an easy way to double the impact of your donation. 100% of the donations directly support the youth.
- **Permanency Pacts:** Individuals interested in becoming more deeply involved in the lives of our youth, can enter into Permanency Pacts that match them with youth currently in the program. This can be an incredibly rewarding personal experience, allowing a supportive adult to play an important role in providing emotional support, as well as life and career guidance, to a young person.
- **Corporate Sponsorships:** Corporations can also donate directly to the American Dream Program. We can design a sponsorship package best aligned with your corporate charitable giving to help demonstrate movement toward your corporate social responsibility objectives.
- **Corporate Internships and Employment Opportunities:** Programmatic support from corporations, in addition to sponsorships, is also welcomed. The American Dream Program is particularly interested in co-creating internships and employment opportunities for our participants with companies in all industries.