NextUp Program Video One

[Transcript, Video Runtime: 3 minutes, 5 seconds]

- [Jordyan, former foster youth] Life before, I was just very erratic, spontaneous, in not a positive way because you don't really know who to go to, or who to lean on.

- [Ernesto, former foster youth] Life for me was, it was a journey. My brother being shot six times, three different occasions. My sister, you know, being lost in the system and not able to find her... It just became a battle for me, you know, just wondering like how can I be who I really was here to be? And I just noticed that I needed my college education.

- [Mark, NextUp/CAFYES Staff] Yeah. I think we're, the best conversations we have with students is “what we offer is hope.” And that can come in many forms. How we treat you when you did the front door. It's not always about just being “that foster youth” or that tags that we like to give a student. It's just like, “Hey, come in. Let's give you, let's, let's see where you're at. Let's give you some hope. Let's give you some direction and let's see which way it goes.”

- [Ernesto] A lot of things as far as programs and things that's set up for us for our population is, is not set up for us because, it's been set up by someone that hasn't ever been through or experienced the foster care system. So, when you've got youth coming in from being abused, human trafficked, neglected, stripped away from their families, you know... It's hard for you flight that to come into a program and trust.

[On Screen: Trust]

- [Angie, NextUp/CAFYES Staff] Believing in the students. Believing, when at times they don't believe in themselves. So, I believe the program with NextUp does, is help the student believe in themself.

- [Jordyan] So it's changed me in the way of like, I've been driven and motivated. And been told like, “You Jordan are capable of, X, you can do this thing that you want to do this. Oh, this country you want to go to can? You can totally do that. Just because you're from the foster system and like you don't have oodles of money? You can do everything.” And because of that, I have done.

[On Screen: Jordyan’s description “former foster youth” is crossed out and replaced with “World Changer.”]

- [Ernesto] When you really take the voice from the population that you're trying to model the program for, it and actually do it, and show the youth like “Look what you did, you had a voice in it.”
It makes us believe, understand, like, “This, this is for us.”

[On Screen: Ernesto’s description “former foster youth” is crossed out and replaced with “Youth Ambassador.”]

- [Jordyan] It’s like, it ties back into trust, and trauma. It's just a point of like having someone do it and experiencing it for themselves. Because once you feel that, like the amount of love and support that’s there? They’ll want to participate.

[On Screen: NextUp]

[On Screen: California Community Colleges]

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End of NextUp Program Video One