

# MEET MALIK

**COMMITMENT**

**BELONGING**

**RELATIONSHIPS**

**SAFETY**

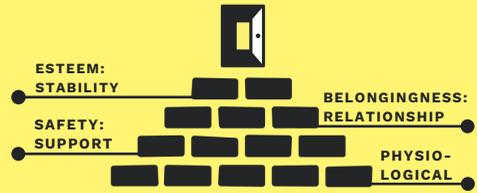
**TRUST**

**STABILITY**

**HONESTY**



Each unique Found Village story fuels our mission to surround teens in crisis by connecting them with relationships and resources specific to their needs. Every story is precious and as so, the true identity of this teen has been concealed for his protection. Each supporter lays a significant brick in building a wall of trust that makes any of this possible. The bricks you lay can quite literally change a life.



## MEETING MALIK'S NEED FOR STABILITY



From yanking out a water fountain from school walls to being tossed around between multiple group homes, Malik was clearly demonstrating a cry for help that is common amongst our teens. When he joined us, he was in an alternative school and unable to maintain any stability in his life. He was angry and his behavior reflected this. Over the years we have met Malik's physiological needs by helping him pay essential bills, stay fed, and get active. He took a particular liking to our fitness resources which has become a healthy outlet for him to express and release the anger that once tried to hold him back. He went from revolving through group home doors, to now living with a mentor who is helping him transition into independent living. He has landed a stable job with livable wages and benefits thanks to an internship we connected him with and is now seeking opportunities to enroll in postsecondary school.

## MEETING MALIK'S NEED FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



We are immensely proud of Malik's strides over the years. Perhaps it's thanks to his coach who helped him realize his life was not only worth living, but thriving in. Or maybe it is because of his job mentor at Crossroads Church who taught him about work ethic, discipline, second chances, and most importantly, how to operate a forklift. Or, we could attribute it to his most current mentor who has provided Malik with a stable home and taught him about how healthy relationships function. But in reality, we know it takes a Village. It takes each individual who has walked into Malik's life and stayed for him to be in the place he is today. We do not take this lightly. Relationships are the thread that keep this passionate and committed community knitted together.

## MEETING MALIK'S NEED FOR SUPPORT



Village is a safe place with safe people! Our goal is to support our teens through some of the toughest and isolating years of their lives and remind them that even through the pain that life has brought them at young ages, there is hope. For Malik this meant advocating for him time and time again as he maneuvered through behavioral crisis and crippling fear. Mentors taught him how to cook, drive, make a budget, and simply be a normal teen. He has made good friends for the first time in his life and now has a support system that continues to advocate for his success. The support doesn't stop here. As he turns 21, he will soon lose his supportive housing and transition into his first apartment on his own. We are evolving to meet his changing needs and are hopeful that with the support of our community, success stories like Malik's will transcend.