

From the start, I always knew I was going to work in the trades, but I never had a good stepping stone to get me there. I thought I'd get a heads-up on the game and start young by skipping school to work...not a good idea. I missed out on a lot of the schooling I needed to help me get a job anywhere other than McDonalds.

YouthBuild and the Next Generation Zone gave me a second chance for both an education and finding the right job for me.

YouthBuild allowed me to **get the training I wanted while helping me be able to make my town a beautiful, more family-friendly place.** I received my PACT, OSHA, and many other certifications in the six months I was in YouthBuild, at no cost to me.

The Next Generation Zone gave me the tools and skills for not only finding a good job, but being able to maintain a **healthy lifestyle.** I learned how to write a resume, maintain a good relationship with my employer, and how to keep my portfolio up to date.

Not only did both YouthBuild and the Next Generation Zone help me get the skills I wanted and find a job, they were great friends. Many of my teammates with YouthBuild are now some of my best friends, and I know I can **always count on the team** to help me later in life if I need it.

All in all my time with both of these programs have been the best years of my life. The only downside is that they aren't a permanent part of my life, but in a small way **they always will be.**

- Tim

