

# Your Gift Helps People Like Denard

Giving kids a better start

Denard has spent most of his life beating the odds.

It's been 12 years since he was removed from a neglectful home. For the next nine years, Denard was moved between 13 different temporary living situations. He attended seven different high schools in three years. It wasn't until he moved into Brantwood Children's Home, a River Region United Way affiliate agency, in 2012, that Denard began to thrive.

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"Brantwood helped me see things more clearly," Denard said, crediting the agency's counseling programs.

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With structured activities, loving guidance and teaching from house parents, individualized need-based education with 10-to-1 student-to-teacher ratios, counseling and other professional services, Brantwood residents like Denard are given the tools they need to overcome their shaky beginnings in life.

Nationally, less than 50% of youth in residential foster care graduate from high school.



*Denard also serves as a mentor to children currently living at Brantwood.*

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Through patience and hard work, Denard graduated in 2013. He began attending college at Alabama State University, and is studying social work, planning to one day work with the Department of Human Resources to help children in situations like his.

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He also works part-time. But he still finds time to return to Brantwood.

"They make you feel like you're in the family," Denard said. "It's been a good journey."

Your gift to the River Region United Way helps  
1 in 3 people in our communities every year.

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