

I am writing to all of the Youth LIVE mentors to thank you on behalf of myself and my son Thomas for an incredible five months in what we referred to as "job training boot camp."

Returning to Canada after being overseas for most of his life was difficult for Thomas and presented many cultural challenges. Besides the cultural adjustment, Thomas had no real job experience, thus no sellable resume and he was still working towards his high school completion through the GED program. Where to find what Thomas needed? Youth LIVE was the perfect match.

Thomas wanted to share the following about Youth LIVE, "Youth LIVE gives kids who are having a rough start get started. It is a program that builds confidence, motivates and teaches youth how to be good community members."

From a mother's perspective, Youth LIVE teaches responsibility, respect for oneself and others, time management, budgeting of finances, honesty, strong work ethics and above all integrity. I have proudly and enthusiastically told many people about the Youth LIVE program. I personally think such a program should be incorporated into the highschool curriculum. It's definitely a program that enhances one's life experience. It is my hope that my youngest son will someday enroll in the Youth LIVE Program.

Thank you to all the Youth LIVE mentors who touched Thomas' life. You made it a point to get to know who Thomas is as a person and with that discovery you mentored him both professionally and lovingly.

Before leaving for work this morning Thomas asked that this quote be included. He refers to it often.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air...I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Sincerely,
Kim Harper-Given