



(Patrick Thomas Hawley stands with a bike that was given to him for free to do food deliveries)

Patrick Hawley, a 23 year old young man from Arkansas, was referred to me by a security guard at the dog park on spring street in August. When I first met him he had only been in Los Angeles for a few weeks. He had moved here from Arizona. Since he was new he did not know where anything was so I showed him where to go to take a shower, get food, and where to go to get a job. During the intake assessment I found out that he lost his father when he was 3 years old and never knew his mother. After his father passed away he went to live with his grandmother. Then when she could no longer take care of herself or him he went to live with his uncle who was abusive so he inevitably ran away. Shortly after the intake, he made contact with his mother for the first time in his life at 22 years old. Then he decided that he wanted to go and meet her in person. After that I started to search for ways on how to get him reunited with his mom. During that time he tried to talk to his mother again but she avoided his questions and did not seem like she wanted a relationship with him. After the disappointing attempt to connect with his mother, he decided that it would be best if he stayed here to build his life.

After that decision was made and the intake was done, a care plan was created of things he needed including: public assistance, mental health, housing, employment, phone, glasses and life skills. I helped him get public assistance including: calfresh, medical and general relief. I also helped him receive a CES assessment to see what kind of housing he would be eligible for. Upon completion, he was referred to a place that helped unhoused youth and provided long-term case management. I reached out to them and they informed me that they were not accepting any new clients but could check back in about 3 weeks for that. Patrick wanted to get into housing sooner than that so I looked into a different housing program that could house him sooner. I ended up combining 2 different programs that I knew about, a housing subsidy program through DPSS and collaborative housing through SHARE. I helped him apply for the housing subsidy and helped him make an appointment to view a room for rent. An appointment was scheduled to view one the following week and I instructed him on how to get there by bus. The landlord really liked him and he liked the place so the next time they met I had Patrick give the landlord the paperwork that needed to be completed. After that we waited on an approval and response from DPSS.

During the time that I was helping him with housing I was also helping him get a job. I found a program for unhoused individuals to get their guard card for free. I helped him apply then the very next day he started school. He now has his certificate and is waiting for his guard card to get here by mail. I also helped him create a resume and Indeed account so he can start applying for jobs. In the meantime of getting a security guard job he wanted to earn money by doing food deliveries but needed a bike to do so. I contacted someone on craigslist who was selling a bike and told him Patrick's story and what he wanted to do with the bike. When the person heard his story they were so moved that they ended up giving it to him for free! Patrick had expected to purchase it so when I told him the news that he was getting it for free he was very happy about it and grateful.

Another important task that we worked on was his life skills. During some of our appointments he would ask me questions that told me he needed more guidance than others that I had worked with. It caused me to do some research on teaching life skills. I ended up finding a free resource online that tested youth on their knowledge of various life skills. I created an account and had Patrick take that test to see what exactly he needed to work on. From there we created a care plan that was tailored to his needs. The life skills care plan included budgeting, a spending log, meal planning, medical care and job searching. When I first started working with him on budgeting he did not know very much and was scared to do it on his own. Now Patrick is able to create his own budget and goes ahead to the next step without any prompting. He has a lot more confidence now and his self esteem has gone up.

Finally, on September 30th we got the news that his housing had been approved and he was set to move into the place the following day. Patrick was so happy! Just a few minutes before we received the news he had been telling me that he could no longer live on the streets and was afraid that he would hurt himself if he was denied housing. Patrick has worked very hard to get where he is at but still has a few things left to do before he feels comfortable on his own. All that is left to do is for him to get his glasses at the end of October, secure a job and start mental health care services.