



# The Alex House Project

Life-Changing Results for Young Moms, Dads and Families

Three (of Many) Family Impact Stories



Natalie is a 22-year old, African American women residing in Brooklyn. She has one child. Natalie enrolled in the program in May 2018. However, she had to miss a few classes and decided to repeat the entire series, which she completed in November 2018. Natalie explains: "I really like being around the other moms as I do not have many friends in the neighborhood. Attending the program allowed me to create strong bonds which lasted even after the classes ended." Previously unemployed, Natalie says AHP gave her the confidence to apply for and secure a position at UPS. Her daughter has also learned more social skills being around the other children. "My daughter is more comfortable playing in groups now versus before she would prefer to play alone." Natalie has been invited to interview for a Parent Educator position.

Joshua, an 18- year- old, African American male, is a first-time parent. He dropped out of high school and is living at home with his family in Red Hook Brooklyn. He was mandated to attend Alex House by his social worker and completed the classes in November 2018. Joshua attests: "Being in the Dads program at AHP opened my eyes. Talking with the other fathers gave me the chance to discuss the things I am currently going through. They explained to me what I needed to do to be able to be in my daughter's life." Regarding his future plans: "I was not sure where I was heading. Now I am moving forward to completing my mandated program, and I am also thinking about either going back to school or taking the HSE exam." Regarding his daughter: "My daughter will now be better cared for when she is with me. I feel that from the things I learned I will be a better father and will have more patience." Joshua's relationship with the baby's mother and her family has also improved: "I learned better ways to express myself and also realize that it's not about me anymore but about my daughter and her being happy."



Dillonna, a 17-year old, African American female entered the Alex House program in September 2017 as an expectant mother. She was in the tenth grade but had stopped attending school. At the time, she was among the youngest Alex House participants and not very engaged. After giving birth, she decided to take the classes again, and became more involved this time around. Being able to go to the Alex House showed her that "people are not there to hurt but to help, and if they can't help they find someone who can." Dillonna completed the classes in November 2018 and self-reported being a confident mom. She has returned to school, noting "I am also more confident in my school work and I now know that I can graduate. Having a baby is not an excuse to give up but a reason to reach higher."

