

Most recently I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing a man by the name of Jonathan Lopez. He is 35 years old and lives with roommates in New Haven, CT.



Work-life

Jonathan is employed through his day program, Corporation for Public Management as a leader of lawn care. He takes care of the outside and does cleaning jobs for an air force base. When I asked him there anyone that he can think of who inspires him to be a strong capable person, Jonathan identified his boss Trever Somerville. Mr. Somerville is the program director of CPM in North Haven. When Jonathan was asked about one thing he could say to others that could help them find their best self, Jonathan stated "be humble, be yourself, don't be nervous." Jonathan enjoys working and keeping busy.

Interests

Jonathan has many interests. When I asked him what some things he like to do when he isn't working, he said he goes to the gym and Special Olympic sports. He is the Connecticut representative in softball. Jonathan mainly likes to work out and when he is not in the gym he likes to go to the movies, hang out with his family and play pool billiards. He is currently in a billiards league. When he was asked about where he sees himself in 5 years, Jonathan stated, "being like Trever," one day and own his own his own business. In the meantime, Jonathan wants to learn different skills.

Independence

Jonathan is independent and he shared some things about himself and being independent. When I asked him if he would want to change where he lives, he said that he would like to eventually have his own apartment/house where he does not have to share with anyone else. He loves where he currently lives because it is close to his program and in a quiet area which he likes.

Jonathan is from Bronx New York, and it is very loud and busy there. I asked him what he does to be independent. Jonathan said he cooks, cleans and does his own laundry. He does most things for himself including shopping for himself. Jonathan is also independent when it comes to getting to and from

different places. Jonathan takes public transportation to see his family that lives in Connecticut, New York and other states.

He takes pride in his independence and “tries to learn as many skills as possible to brace it.”

Advocacy

Jonathan is an advocate for himself. He also stated he advocates for other people around him when it is necessary. For himself, he makes sure his boss knows when he wants more work to do. Jonathan speaks up for others when things concern him about what is going on. Jonathan is always open to learn more things and other ways to be an advocate for himself and others.