



SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Spectrum Sun

Your gifts at work for teenagers & young adults

SPRING 2019

The Beginning of Everything

Thanks to you, a young woman is creating a better life for herself.

We recently sat down with Ariel, one of the youth staff at Detail Works, Spectrum's car detailing business. **Here is Ariel's story:**

“ I came from family that wasn't exactly the smartest or the nicest. No matter where you come from or what you have experienced—good or bad—it all adds up and you just grow from it. You can't let it tear you down, even if you don't have parents. That's what I'm trying to do.

I used to live at my grandmother's and then an opportunity fell in my lap and I was able to rent a room. That's where I got my stable living situation.

Living on my own has shown me what I can really do. **I'm learning about myself every day, just like in this job. I love this job.**

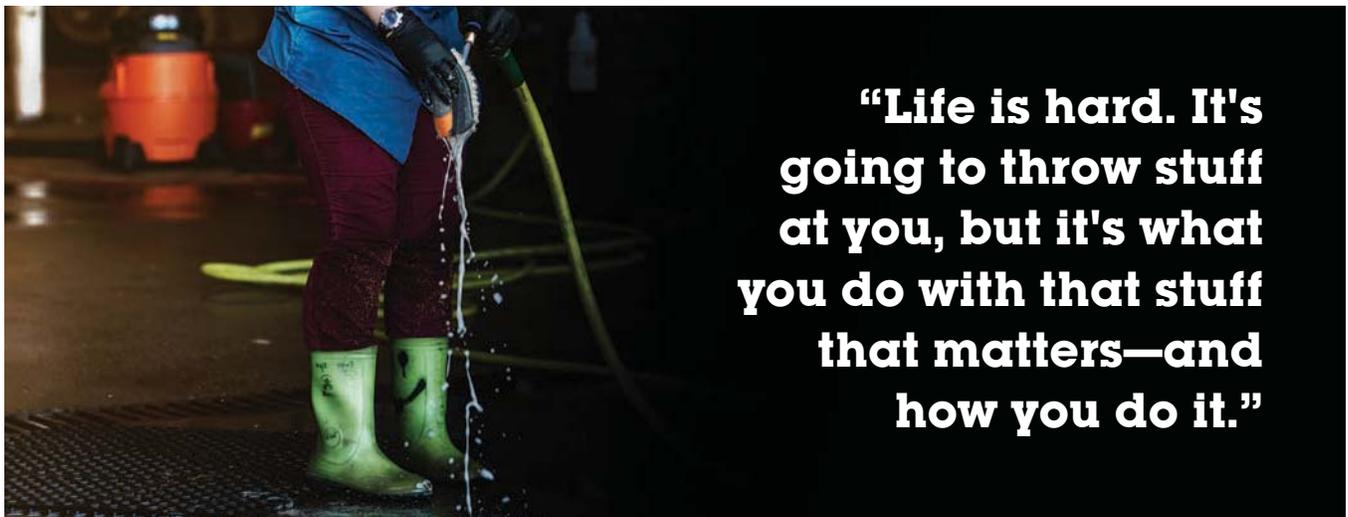
I didn't really have much of a mother growing up and my dad wasn't around, but I don't need my parents. I've been through the court system. I was abused in many different ways—physical, emotional, and verbal.

I now have some mental health problems. When I was younger, they got in the way a lot. **Now I'm realizing that things can be much different. I like 'me' now compared to my past 'me.'**

A Life that I Want

I found this job because my cousin was working at Detail Works and she told me about it. Detailing cars seemed easy to me. You know, I'm very good at cleaning. So I called them and asked if there was an open position and—BAM—I was in!

continued on back



“Life is hard. It's going to throw stuff at you, but it's what you do with that stuff that matters—and how you do it.”



MARK'S MISSION MOMENT

It's All in the Details!

THANKS TO YOU, our car detailing business is giving youth a clean start.

Last summer I ran into a young woman in our counseling waiting room who works for Detail Works, our social enterprise that teaches youth the soft skills they need to be successful. She turned out to be Ariel, the young woman featured in this newsletter.

I asked how things were going and she said enthusiastically, "I just got promoted! I've never been promoted in my whole life!" She was beaming.

A couple of weeks ago, I stopped by the shop to check in with the youth staff there. These are just a few of the things they told me:

"Without this program I'd be pretty broke. Because I would go to another fast food restaurant and work there and it would suck."

"It's really helping me be able to manage people better. I'm learning different ways to approach people and asking them to do stuff, but in ways that help them meet their needs too."

And when I asked why customers should bring their cars to us:

"Because we actually try. We care about the car and try to make sure it actually looks nice. I mean we take care of it and we actually make it look a billion times nicer."

"We put our heart into it. We try our best and we all work together to push out a great product. There's a lot of love around here."

If you'd like to give our youth—and your car—a fresh start, you can book an appointment online at www.detailworksvt.org. In the meantime, Ariel said it best: "I'm so grateful for your donation. Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to have a good life, a better life that I want."

With gratitude,

Mark Redmond, Executive Director



Youth staff at Detail Works on a busy day in May. They took a break from the 7 cars in the shop to chat with peers and staff.

You Did It!

This March and April, over 400 community and student leaders slept outside overnight in solidarity with youth who are facing homelessness—and another 2,000 people donated to support them!

Your participation helped us raise over \$300,000 for teens and young adults struggling with homelessness. Thanks to you, our youth will get help when they need it most.



The Ben & Jerry's and Seventh Generation teams.

An Inside Perspective

Multicultural youth are getting the help they need to thrive as adults—**BECAUSE OF YOU!**

In May 2019, Aden received the Herb Blumenthal Award for Community Activism from the City of Burlington in recognition of his leadership, tenacity, and dedication to improving Burlington's neighborhoods.



Spectrum's Multicultural Youth Program (MYP) was launched in 2015 to support youth who self-identify as a person of color or multicultural. MYP's five staff members collectively speak nine languages and come from the communities that MYP serves. The program is entirely funded through the generosity of **donors like you.**

Aden Haji and his family moved here in 2003 when Aden was 6 years old. They were the first Somali Bantu refugees to resettle in Vermont.

"Living in Burlington has made me realize the importance of mentorship for youth like myself. Getting involved in the community was a challenge when we moved here," Aden says. "So when I got older, I started volunteering at local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club to support kids who were going through what I went through."

Aden uses this experience to help youth from multicultural families overcome any challenges they may be facing. This could include getting extra help with schoolwork, applying to college, finding access to translation services, or navigating life in the United States.

"I've been trying to do this work for a long time, but through Spectrum, we have both the mission and the team to make an impact."

Aden says, "It is easy to get very focused within your family system. My family didn't always know what was available for me. **It is hard to go outside of your own comfort zone, especially when you don't have someone to guide you. I wanted to be that guide.**"

MYP is unique in that it allows staff to take their first-hand observations of what youth from diverse families in the Burlington community need and then build programs to address those needs.

"I've been trying to do this work for a long time, but through Spectrum, we have both the mission and the team to make an impact. I'm helping families and youth during difficult times. I'm able to offer solutions that will get results."

"We're including Spectrum in our estate planning because we believe in the work being done and want to see young people cared for even when we are no longer here."

—Bill and Marion Mohri



MYP staff members at the 3-on-3 March Madness Basketball Tournament organized by Aden for Burlington-area teens.

Leave a Lasting Legacy with Planned Giving

You can ensure that your investment in our youth lives on by making a bequest or planned gift to Spectrum.

What is a planned gift?

It's a donation that is arranged now and pays out at a future date, most often through a will or IRA distribution. However, some planned gifts pay an income to the donor during their lifetime, with the remainder going to the nonprofit when they pass away.

Contact us!

If you'd like to discuss ways to make a lasting impact in the lives of our youth, contact Sarah.

Sarah Woodard
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(802) 864-7423 x350

The Beginning of Everything... *continued from front*

Detailing was difficult at first, things are usually difficult in the beginning, right? But as I started coming here every day, doing the work, and learning new things, I just started to get it.

Before I came to Detail Works, I used to be a cashier. I had a lot of different jobs, actually. This is the longest I've ever had a job.

"I'm just proud that I get my butt out of bed every day. I came to work today and continue to do that every day of the week."

In three months after working here, I had gotten two promotions and became a trainer. I like managing people around my age. I know some things that they don't know, and I can teach them and offer them advice.

I also really like the learning process. I've learned how to do headlight restoration, use the buffer, to wax, and I've learned how to use lacquer thinner which takes tree sap off the outside of the car.

All of the other jobs I've had got me to where I am today, but the difference between all of my other jobs and working at Detail Works is the way that we are treated here.



I'm just proud that I get my butt out of bed every day. I came to work today and continue to do that every day of the week. **It is the beginning of everything. You have to take a step forward in order to keep walking.**

It is the workers that make Detail Works special. We've all had hard times, but because of Spectrum and the Drop-In Center and Detail Works we're able to learn and grow. **They're teaching us what we need to know so we have the skills for our future. We're stronger and better because of it.**

Life is hard. It's going to throw stuff at you, but it's what you do with that stuff that matters—and how you do it.

I'm so grateful. I'm so grateful for your donation. Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to have a good life, a better life that I want.



DONATE Give online at donate.spectrumvt.org/news or in the envelope provided.

MENTOR Contact Stephanie Ball at sball@spectrumvt.org or (802) 864-7423 x321 for more info.

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Yes! I want to make sure help is there when youth need it most!

I'd like to make a donation of \$ _____

Please make my gift monthly!

Your credit card will be charged on the 15th of each month. Or call Bridget at (802) 864-7423 x222 to set up an automatic payment through your checking or savings account.

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