

Learning Teamwork

I learned a lot of lessons during my life and during my incarceration. Mostly I learned to change the way I think. You can live a certain way for many years and it might help you survive but then you need to be ready to change.

I was always an independent person on the street and I learned to keep to myself in prison. Prison taught me to not trust others and to not depend on others. I took care of myself and didn't accept help from anyone.

After I got out, I went into the Refire Culinary program in town here. That was a big change for me because I had to become part of a team. I had to accept help and I had to learn to help others.

When you're on the line you depend on others and they depend on you. Everyone's hustling in the back of the house. You have to be a team player or you're just in the way. You need to show up and do whatever is needed at the time.

We all look out for each other in my class. We encourage each other. In a few months I hope to be ServSafe certified and then a few months after that, I'll graduate. None of this would be possible if it wasn't for Ms. Rebecca and the guys on my kitchen team.

That's what I've learned in life: Find people you can trust and then be trustworthy to them.

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