



Salvador came to Mentors Care from a Juvenile Justice AEP program in Dallas County. His story and the situations he was in gave him every reason to quit and not pursue success in life. He was caught selling drugs and was put in the Juvenile system and sent to the JJAEP program in Dallas County.

Through all of this, no one ever asked him what happened or why he did it. Up to this point, his story is very similar to a lot of young people living in urban areas: A young kid on the streets selling drugs.

But something didn't add up, he went from making As and Bs to only passing one class for the second semester of 2018-19. This current school year, he has buckled down and earned 19 semesters worth of work with totaled 9.5 credits to finish this year!

Since he entered the Mentors Care program, he has done very well and opened up; not only about his past but also his dreams for his future. He wants to be an accountant. He and his mentor, Wes Dorough, talked weekly about how to achieve his goals.

While he was finishing his courses in Hawks Success (an online school for students of Red Oak HS to be able to catch up to their peers and graduate on time) he took time to complete his FAFSA and apply to colleges. He finished all of his high school requirements in February and had his walk-through in the counselor's office!

Salvador has been one of the students who motivate me to continue to reach other students and we will continue our relationship and use his story to motivate other students to keep pressing through hard times.

I am so glad that Mrs. Jennifer Thomas, Mrs. Andrea Jones, and other teachers and school administrators saw more than just his past and asked him about his story. We may have never known the details of his past if they hadn't taken an interest in him.

Thank you and to all the staff and administrators who believed in him and gave him the chance at a fresh start! I am proud to be a part of such a great school district, I am blown away by their dedication in helping every student and making sure no one has fallen into the cracks or has been overlooked.

-SEAN BYARS, Mentors Care Expansion Coordinator