

Malachi Stidham:

Just entering foster care for the first time, I was only 13, I believe, when I first entered. It was kind of hard. I had to go to court every three or two months. Not going to lie, I thought I was going to go to jail. Because usually my mom always taught me never go to a courthouse, or you can go to jail. When I went there, I was a little nervous because there's a lot of people.

Once I entered a group home named Boystown, they was telling me that I would get a person. They called it a special person. I didn't know what it really meant. Then I met Tom at court and he was telling me about what they do and who they are and what they're here for. He said that they would be kind of like my voice through court and everything. He was there to help me and cope with everything's going to be okay in that it's not a bad place to be.

It was really important to get my social security card for one, my ID, so I can get a job. The social worker at the time was not doing her job, really, and Tom and the GAL program were the only people that really reached out and tried their hardest to get it, and they got it.

Those two years that I was alone in Boystown, he was like my, I guess you could say, savior throughout it all. Because he was the only person I felt comfortable talking to about my problems. He became basically almost like a close relative to me. Everyone deserves the chance that I got to meet somebody good that can help them. If it wasn't for Tom and his help in the Guardian Litem program, I wouldn't be the person I am now.