



**TURNING
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FOR
CHILDREN**
a PHMC affiliate

STRONGER FAMILIES, BRIGHTER FUTURES

Change of Seasons, Changing Lives

October is here, and with it comes the unmistakable shift of fall. The air turns crisp, the leaves begin to change, and nature invites us to slow down and look inward. Fall reminds us that change, though sometimes challenging, can be both necessary and beautiful. It's also a season of reflection and deep gratitude—especially for the transformations we witness every day in the lives of young people.

This month we're sharing a story from BIPS, our prevention program for West Philly youth. BIPS serves young people ages 10-19 who are disengaged and at risk of becoming involved in the child welfare system.

Rakim* was referred to BIPS when he was 16. Like many who participate in BIPS, he wasn't attending school, was smoking weed, and grieving a loss in his family due to gun violence. **He wanted something better, but didn't know how to get there—or who could help.**

At first, Rakim was skeptical. During the intake process, he questioned whether BIPS could actually help and initially felt it would be a waste of time. However, a few weeks into the program, he experienced a shift. Rakim learned that the BIPS staff were from his same neighborhood, and they wanted to support him. They not only listened, but understood where he was coming from.

By the time Rakim finished BIPS, a lot had changed. He began working as an assistant for one of the BIPS staff members who runs a 360 photo booth business. He also became motivated to share his story with other participants.

Now, Rakim comes back regularly to speak to other BIPS youth to help them get the most out of the program and prepare for a brighter future. He's currently enrolled in a carpentry trade program and feels confident about his future.



Rakim's journey through BIPS highlights the power of supportive mentorship, community engagement, and access to opportunity. ***It's a reminder that when we invest in young people—especially those who've been overlooked—we help create the conditions for real, lasting change.***

Your support makes these transformations possible. Thank you for believing in the potential of every young person we serve.

**Name and photo have been changed to protect privacy*

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