

Lanai Barrett

Overcoming Obstacles

Overcoming obstacles can be very challenging. One of the obstacles that I had to overcome was having mini downfalls in my business. Having a small business at the age of 16 can be very challenging sometime. Somedays I will have 5 orders, and some days I will have none.

I had to get into the mindset where I say and tell myself that's it okay, although we sell anything today, that doesn't me it's the end of the world. If weeks went by with no sells, then I would tell myself, that even if I had to back track in my business, this doesn't mean that it can't get back on track. So, I keep moving forward. I also over come the obstacle of people telling me that me that my business won't make it or that, people wont purchase anything from me.

A lot of the obstacles that I overcome are nothing but negativity. I overcome negativity by speaking life and positivity not only to myself to those who speak negative to me. I overcome obstacles by proving that I can do whatever it is I set my mind too, and by doing whatever it takes to prove others wrong. For example, when people have talked about my business in the past and talked about my sells. I started advertising more, and putting my brand out there, and I began to get more sells. I started to utilize their others doubts and disbelief as fuel to push me forward and where I want to be with my company.

Overcoming obstacles have become second nature to me now. It seems like I'm overcoming them weekly rather its with friendship, important death in my family, my business or school. Knowing that I had the ability to overcome obstacles helps push and motivate me through life. It teaches me that no matter what life throughs at you, if you have a vision, and its plain and clear to see. You have the ability to do and achieve anything.

My Club Experience

By: Lanai Barrett

I have been a club kid since I was in the second grade. I started off at the Saint Luke's Boys & Girls Club which was also connected to the elementary and middle school I went to. When I was in the fourth grade, I met Mrs. Taylaura, she was my favorite staff in the club. She became like a sister to me. She mentored me and helped me with my homework every day during power hour.

When I Graduated 8th grade, I attended Martin de Porres High School where I joined and been apart of the BGC teen center since 2019. While being at the teen center, I was exposed to keystone club, where we did activities to build our leadership skills, and lots of community projects like clean around the inside and outside of our school, and prep and clean out school's garden for the following garden season.

Since being at I participated in smart girls, where I was giving the free space to ask any questions about being a girl. Each time we had smart girls Mrs. Taylaura always had doughnuts and other snacks for us to eat while we sat and discussed the topic for those sessions. She is always open and honest with the kids. While being at the club, I learned be more independent, centered, and open minded. I learn more about self-respect, respect for others, and manners and etiquette. I learned that sometimes you win and sometimes you lose, but you must find the good and the lesson out of both. My parents taught me a lot but that's always expected.

My overall club experience has been awesome, it was a safe space and a home away from home. I learned to interact with my peers in a positive way, I built amazing relationships with club staff, I had fun every day, I played on the volleyball team and won a championship, and while being in a teen site, we had a new take away every day. I look forward to my last year as a club kid.

What matters to me

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What matter to me are the people around me, and how I can affect them. Seeing how my grandmother went through life and how she made people around her smile and happy showed me what it really feels like to leave an impact of people. So having that positive memory in peoples minds about me matters to me the most. People being able to say that Lanai really did something for me and made a positive impact on my life.

Another thing that matters to me is my brand. Over the course of 2 years, I have built a brand called lanai's cosmetics. I make and sell sugar scrubs for lips and body, as well as oils, lotions, lip gloss, hair ties lashes, etc. I also took make up classes with a license artist and received a certificate of completion . So, I am also trying to expand my craft with being a make up artist. These things matter to me because my goal in life it to work for myself. I want to own my own everything and teach my business and crafts other, which goes back to making a positive impact on people . It matters to me because my parents worked their butts off for years to clothe me and put food on the tables, and I want to one day be able to return the favor.

A college education is also important to me or matters to me because, to run or own a business I want to have the degrees and knowledge to back it up. I want to know and absorb all information as it pertains to running a business or company. All these things go back to why I want to make and create a positive impact on those around me, and all of these things are what matters to me.