

# S U C C E S S S T O R I E S



*Our Success Stories series was created as a way to communicate with our friends and donors in an efficient, inexpensive format. Each month, we feature one of our programs and the inspiring story of a child whom the program has helped. To be added to the Success Stories email list, add your name to the box on our homepage: [www.eliada.org](http://www.eliada.org).*

Tre is an inquisitive 15 year old who loves basketball, the Dallas Cowboys, and “a good six dollar cheeseburger”. He is known to the Eliada staff members as a positive, upbeat student who is a friend to all. Observing his relaxed, easy going nature, it is hard to believe that less than a year ago Tre was a young man facing very serious issues.

Tre came to Eliada struggling with many things at once. He was unable to succeed in the public school environment, often choosing truancy over the academic and social problems he faced there. Behaviorally, he often required physical restraints and exhibited erratic and unstable conduct. One staff member described his attitude as “aggressive without remorse.” Tre’s situation deteriorated so severely that he was placed in juvenile detention.

Tre returned from his time in detention a changed young man, ready to accept responsibility and make personal choices to better himself. In his own words, that dark period of his life was “a real reality check.” He became open to learning coping skills, goal setting, and how to maintain control in emotional situations. Today, Tre is looked up to by other students as a model of success. According to one staff member, “Tre’s overall attitude is wonderful to be around. He’s incredibly funny and it’s been wonderful to watch his self esteem grow for the months that he has been at Eliada.”

Tre has greatly improved the ways in which he communicates with others and also is extremely intuitive on many aspects of his own treatment. He is better able to understand and draw from his own experiences and in turn can provide his peers with

insight into their own issues. He often lightens the mood of staff and of his peers with his creativity, humor and unique way of looking at things. Anyone who has spent any time with Tre understands that he is a very sensitive young man who genuinely cares for those around him; he possesses a warmth and a smile that are highly contagious!

When asked what he would want others to know about himself or his time at Eliada, Tre said, “I would want everyone to be grateful for the things that they have. So many people walk around with great families, lots of friends, and really good lives, but there is so much negativity in the world. There is no reason to be negative when there is so much to be thankful for.”

Tre’s positive outlook is echoed in the comments of students and staff members who have worked with him throughout the last eight months he has spent at Eliada. Said one counselor, “On a daily basis, Tre’s goal is to contribute to a positive atmosphere despite any negative circumstances that may arise. He is resilient and a wonderful role model for the other students.”

Tre will be stepping down to a lower level of residential care and entering the Eliada Day Treatment program in the very near future. He is very excited about taking these positive next steps on his journey to success. We are very proud of him!



**Tre - October 2007**