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## MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: JALYN

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### WSA 09 – HENNEPIN/CARVER COUNTIES – HENNEPIN COUNTY (TREE TRUST)

*(No photo)*

#### JALYN (Individual Site)

Jalyn went from falling behind in school to taking free college classes before he graduates high school. He's part of the Achieve Program associated with Park Center Senior High and in his first summer with Tree Trust's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), he found a passion for working with kids at Zanewood Recreation Center in Brooklyn Park.

Jalyn is 17 years old and had volunteered at Zanewood prior to being placed there in an individual job placement position by Tree Trust this summer. In his position this summer Jalyn worked with 10-12 year olds at the Zanewood summer camp and says patience has been the most important lesson he has learned. He explains "even though I'm working with kids, I've learned to be more patient with certain adults. I'm starting to understand that the attitude that some adults have started off that way as a kid."

He will be starting his last year of high school this fall and plans to continue schooling at Hennepin Tech for his generals and then transfer to the University of Minnesota. Through the Achieve program, Jalyn has been taking Psychology and Sociology classes, but because his time at Zanewood, he wants to study child development.

He credits Zanewood for keeping him out of trouble and says he's grown very close with his supervisors. The rec center is a more relaxed environment so "I love having a job where you take a water balloon throw it at your boss, not get in trouble, and he throws one back." Outside of connecting with his supervisors Jalyn says that connecting with the kids at the summer camp is "a good bond to have," and that his group often makes him friendship bracelets. "The kids, they make them. I've never seen kids sit down and make stuff like this but they make them, and out of respect for them I wear the bracelets to work every day."

#### Service Provider Contact Information

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