
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: DA'JWAUN

WSA10 – MINNEAPOLIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

DA'JWAUN



My name is Da'Jwaun Dempsey and I am 19 years old. I am the oldest of 13 siblings. Being the oldest has driven me to set bigger and better goals for myself and to set an example for my brothers and sisters. I want to be a leader in my family which can be very challenging growing up in North Minneapolis where there are many things to “get into”, rather than taking the right path and finding something positive to do.

This summer, I worked at Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC) through the STEP-UP Program. Working at MACC has helped me to focus on my career path, to be a K-9 police officer. I want a career that involves helping others, whether it is people or animals. The internship at MACC helped me to get the inside-view on how things operate at the animal shelter. Animal control officers not

only work with people, but help animals as well. If I were a K9 officer, I could work with people alongside the dogs. The internship at MACC helped me to understand how to multi-task and gave me hands-on experiences like ride-alongs with the officers. I now see how the program is run – all the different jobs that people have, all the functions within the building, etc. I was even able to watch a surgery in the vet clinic with Dr. Kim, and two of my family's dogs received spay/neuter surgeries because of my involvement at the animal shelter.

I joined the National Guard to seek financial help to pay for college, as well as gain valuable experiences for my future career. I plan on going to college and then applying to be a police officer.

Contact Information

City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Programs
105 – 5th Avenue South, Suite 200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2593
Telephone: (612) 673-6221 Fax: (612) 673-5299
Deb Bahr-Helgen, Director
Deb.Bahr.Helgen@minneapolismn.gov