

## **Simone H.**

I can't believe after everything I have been through I am still standing and still giving GOD all the praises he deserves. I entered the foster care system at the age of 2 and transitioned out of care at the age of 18. I had both good and bad experiences in the foster care system, but overall it was great experience. After I transitioned out of care, I was accepted at Cal-State University Dominguez Hills and also accepted in The Los Angeles County, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Transitional Housing Program. That same year my biological mother passed away. I never developed a relationship with her and I regret that to this day. When I got pregnant, I left the transitional housing program and moved back to my foster mother's home. I'm happy to share that at the age of 21, my foster mother adopted me.

I am currently employed full-time with LA County DCFS as an Ombudsman Assistant for the Youth Development Services Divisions' Ombudsman Office. I am currently a senior majoring in Child Development at Cal State University Los Angeles. I plan to graduate in one year with a Bachelors of Arts Degree. It is my goal to own a unique transitional housing program. It is my desire is to give back to foster youth and be there for them as much as I can.