

A CHANNEL MARKER YOUTH SUCCESS STORY

Through happenstance and circumstance, Tyler had serious emotional problems. There were angry outbursts at home and in school. He would become upset and run out of the classroom. He became a target for bullying. He told his mom, "I get worked up and I can't calm down."

Tyler was diagnosed with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), anxiety and border-line depression. His medications were frequently changed as physicians tried to address his symptoms. You can imagine the result. His mother was exhausted by trying to understand and help him.

He was referred by his school counselor to Channel Marker's mental health Youth Program in Caroline County when he was in 3rd grade and, at 15, is still in the program.

His mother recounts how Channel Marker staff and the professional content of the program changed Tyler's life:

"Tyler made friends in the program, learning that there were kids with similar emotional problems. He learned about his mental health challenges. He was able to bounce ideas off of his peer group. He felt more normal. He learned about the triggers for his anger and how to count, breathe and calm down. There were also lots of fun activities.

One of the Channel Marker staff, Miss Renee became like a second mom. Sometimes, Tyler would ask me to call her so he could talk to her after a blow-up at home.

The family is part of the program. Miss Renee frequently communicated with me and visited our home. Parents are consulted about the program goals for their child. One year, Miss Renee brought us a Thanksgiving dinner.

I recently learned that Tyler has become a mentor to younger children in the program. You don't know how much it means to hear that my son is a positive influence on others. He is a much happier person. I don't believe this would have happened without this wonderful program."



*For the sake of privacy, the client's
name and photo has been modified.*

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