

[Next Level Community Development Center] - Not just words or a title, but a true description of a program that not only excels you academically and through work ethics but also through morals and values. My first day at Camp Zion, at the age of 7, I can say that I was extremely shy and nervous. Now for those of you who know me now, I am far from that! Not afraid of a challenge and stepping outside of myself to accomplish a goal.

If anyone was like me as a child, after that last bell rung for the school year, every academic thought left my mind so quickly that I felt as if I was breathing in a new person. Well Next Level said, "No ma'am" and had me run and retrieve every thing. I didn't expect it like everyone else in my class, but to this day I appreciate it. From writing checks, to managing money, running our own virtual businesses, and now giving back to charities and ourselves through savings. Math was always my strongest subject and I believe if I had stopped for one summer I would have lost that passion for it.

I got older and started to look up to that 10-12 grade class. I mean they were so cool. So big and tall and had all the cool trips. I mean they went to Chicago, Florida, Washington, France... ok maybe not France but to me going outside of Georgia was the best thing in the world. Now that I've experienced it all, I realize it comes with so much responsibility and the smaller ones really do look up to you. I walk in the hall and there are kids that speak to me by name and I have no idea who they are but I make sure that I'm sure to speak.

Job Club came about when I started 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade class. My first few jobs were quite interesting. I started at a church, then on to a law firm, next a museum, and finally a Scott's pharmacy. The program definitely did its job.

Helped me find where I didn't want to be but also helped me in finding where I truly wanted to be. I'll be attending Kennesaw State University in the fall to major in biochemistry and to eventually pursue a career in pharmaceuticals. From the college tours to the abstinence classes, Job club has excelled more and more each year and I hope to come back and see it grow even more.

My confidence has grown tremendously through the friendships and motherly figures who kept me on my toes. My mom told me that she had her eyes on me when she was away; she just didn't tell me she would look a little different. Short, lovely long hair, first name similar to hers, and can give you that look like no other. I love my Auntie Kesia. This lady is incredible. I don't know what she runs on when she is going through the day to day tasks at Next Level. I look up to her beyond belief. She works beyond her abilities to make sure each and every student at Next Level exceeds and believes that you can even when you may not have the most confidence yourself.

From the bottom of my heart thank you to every staff member at Next Level. You've done a great job.

Briana Vick: Camp Zion Class of 2012