

THE BLAST

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Thoughts about the YAB Leadership Summit

By Colin McShane, YAB Core Member

As you know, life is transition. Whether you're 15 or 55, life is constantly evolving and throwing new obstacles in your path. No one knows this better than system youth, especially YAB youth. We try our best to adapt and adjust and we use whatever tools that we have available. In YAB, we use our tools of experience, partnering with professionals and much more to assist ourselves and our peers with the transitions of life.

This is why I love YAB Statewide get togethers. Whether its the Summit, the Retreat or even a quarterly statewide meeting, this is where the most fun and most amazing things happen. Every person's story and situation is different. Some youth, like myself, may have had to grow up quickly and never fully enjoy the treasures of childhood. Some youth may have been abused, neglected or even forgotten about by the system until they found YAB. But at the end of the day, especially at big statewide functions, none of that matters. When we get together we get work done, but we also have fun, we network and socialize, but most importantly we pay it forward. When we get together we are NOT our problems, or our past. We are one.

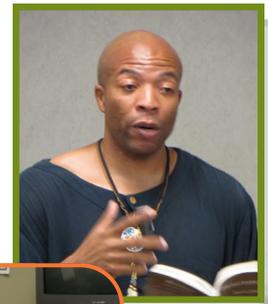
We are a group of youth and young adults whose sole intention is to better the lives of our peers and even of those whom we may never meet, but know that their time in care is better than ours was. We give a voice to those who need it, and we make sure that needs are met. Because after all, **It's not about us without us.** ❖

You can check out more photos from the 2013 YAB Leadership Summit on the Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board's Facebook Page!



"I always love coming to these types of things. It's a good way to make new friends and hear some great speakers."

-Youth Comment



YAB would like to thank our partners!

