

HOW KESHET HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE

Hi, my name is Indie [REDACTED]. I was sent to YDDC when I was 13 years old. When I first got there, there wasn't much of anything to do, except think too much and get into trouble. Then one day Keshet gave us a dance workshop at YDDC and then a stretch and strength class on Saturdays in the cottage. This made a big difference to a lot of us in YDDC. For me it was a way to just get away from everything going on around me (which was usually negative stuff). I know I wasn't there for singing in church, but when I was around Keshet people, they never looked at me and judged me, or made a diagnosis about, or said that's a bad kid. They always treated me like a person no matter what they heard about me. Their positive attitudes and uplifting spirits rub off on you. Then they started their pre release and post release program. To be or stay in this program with Keshet, you have to be staying out of trouble. That wasn't an easy thing to do. But Keshet is such a great program that it kept me and other kids out of trouble. Keshet stuck with me all the way until I got out of YDDC. Now I'm 18 and Keshet is still very involved in my life. When I was in YDDC Keshet became a support system for me. Through out my four years Keshet stayed involved in my life while every other program came in for a month or two and just left without a warning. It means so much to me that Keshet has been there through everything. When I got out if there wasn't a way for me to get to Keshet they'd pick me without hesitation. They let me work there when I first got out. Finding a job is the hardest thing to do when you first get out. No matter what they were there for me. Keshet isn't just a Dance Company, they're more than that. Keshet is like a family that a lot of kids in YDDC never had. They are just awesome people with big hearts for every kind of person. You could be tall, short, fat, skinny, mean, nice, pretty, ugly, mentally or physically disabled. It doesn't matter to them. They accept you and love you however you are.

Indie [REDACTED]