

NAME:
Addison Martin

Age:
18

RESIDENCE:
Friendship Court
Charlottesville, VA
150 Apartments

AFFORDABILITY:
- Low-Income Housing
Tax Credit
(Income Restricted)

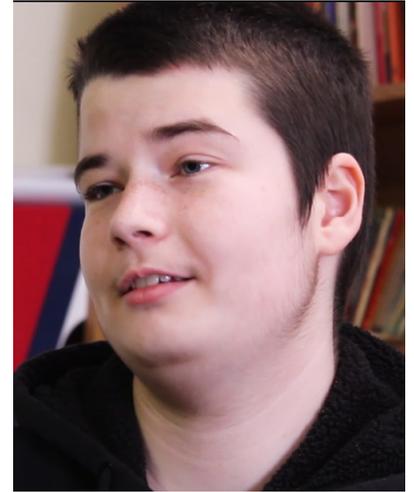
*Last updated in 2019

VOICES OUT LOUD

Addison Martin

I've always had this really big weight on my shoulders... only having one parent in the house made it even harder

Addison James is, at eighteen years old, the oldest of six. His single mother managing all six children meant Addison was changed three or four diapers in a row by the time he was four years old. He did whatever he could to help, but the frequent moves between homeless shelters disrupted his childhood.



When he was seven years old, his family moved to Friendship Court in Charlottesville, Virginia and have called it home ever since. Growing up in Friendship Court Addison has felt a sense of security with a roof over his head. Half of the residents in the neighborhood are children, and so there was plenty of company after school in the Friendship Court after-school care programs. He has since graduated from Charlottesville High School and is glad that he was able to catch the same bus as many other students from the neighborhood and without feeling different from them. The stability has ensured that his family has remained close and Addison has a close group of friends.

Within his family, Addison has truly stepped into the older brother figure – helping to cook, walk the younger siblings to the bus stop, and be there when someone's had a bad day. Within the community, he's seen the true impact of Friendship Court as a place to call home for others, especially those who have recently moved as refugees from other countries. Having experiences hardships early on, he understands that hotels and homeless shelters are not homes. Friendship Court is a place to sleep at night and know that you're going to be there the next day. It's somewhere to put your groceries, it's somewhere to raise your kid, it's somewhere family memories happen.

Addison has plans to enter the work force to help support his mother and younger siblings.

[Living here has] helped me grow as a person...allowed me to understand people a bit more, meet people I never would have known, share and listen to ideas I never would have thought of myself.