

Testimonies Annual Lock-in February 25-26, 2017

I like how we danced. I like dancing and how we did boards for our past life goals, even though I couldn't present it that very well but after that I felt confident. Then it was cool to get to know some people because I was mad at first that I couldn't get on my phone, but I now know that they take your phone for a reason that is to communicate with people around you not on your phone. – **Mikkiah Gandy**

The lock-in was a lot of fun and we got to do lots of activities such as vision boards, we sat in lots of circles to share our likes and dislikes. We also dance, got manicures, and even a game station. It was so much fun and I can't wait for the next one. If I get older and Making It To The Finish Line is still open I am going to volunteer. – **Makayla Estes**

My experience at the lock-in was great. There were questions about us and our lives. For my first lock-in I made a board about me and my future and I presented it. The activities and games were fun. I made a new friend named Makayla. Lock-ins are great I would especially come next year. – **Sydney**

The lock-in was fun. We did all kinds of activities that were fun and exciting. I didn't like the lack of the activities we did by ourselves. But other than that it was fun. There wasn't a lot of people but we had lots of fun to with each other. I'm pretty sure I was the first one asleep. I had got into my sleeping bag and was playing in it and next thing I know, I'm a sleep. – **A'Sharie Johnson**

I wasn't prepared to come to the lock-in. I was told at the last minute that we were coming. So in my head I pictured it to be like the last lock-in. When I came in I was feeling confused because I didn't see any one for real. When more people came in the older children started talking to me I opened up. I liked the food, people and game centers. What I didn't like was the hard cold floor and how cold it was. Ps it wasn't that cold but I also didn't like when you woke us up that was annoying and I don't wake up that early. But over all I had a good time. – **Ashley**

My experience with the lock-in was very positive. This year the volunteers we had didn't have such a big bridge gap. So they were very relatable which made things more fun than usual. Also, this year there were more older girls so I didn't feel like I was at a kiddy party. Lastly, there were no arguments or confutations of any kind. So a bunch of girls hanging together without any thing happening made me happy. – **DJ**

I am so glad that I got this opportunity once again for the 5th year here at the annual lock-in. When I first got here I thought I wouldn't be surprised. As always I am surprised with the good outcome of the group of girls you have in the program this year. I had a lot of fun this year, as I do every year. I am the first one to be a volunteer next year, to show and provide the services and wisdom you gave to me, to the younger girls. Thank you Ms. Pearson. I love you so much for what you do. Keep up the good work for the sake of other young girls. – **Love, Aubrie Morris**

At first I did not want to come to this lock-in. I thought at first it would be really boring and pointless. Turns out I really enjoyed myself. I got to do a vision board right for the first time. I really enjoyed the manicure and make-up stations. When I first arrived it was a little boring, but once we started talking and getting to know each other it became fun. I learned some new hustles and made some new friends at the lock-in. – **TreVonna Sherman**

I really didn't want to stay or go to the lock-in. My mom made me, I wasn't prepared really. I only brought some clothes and myself and the person that came with me. But when I came it was alright, they started talking about things and we had good conversations. We made future boards it was fun I didn't really cut out anything I just wrote 9 things. When I got done we talk about it and everyone started dancing. I went to sleep before everybody. Somethings I didn't like was it was freezing and I couldn't go to sleep for real. I got really irritated because I didn't want to be here. I wanted heat, my bed and everything else. Everyone was nice and cool. I'm happy I'm leaving at 10. It was too many little kids and really not a lot of teens. – **Angel Irving**

Volunteers

It was my first time working with Making It To The Finish Line. It was a very fun experience. I could tell the girls really enjoyed their time spent here. We created vision boards to help put our goals on paper so the girls can have a visual reminder of what they want and where they want to be a month, year, or five years down the road. I helped out by giving the girls manicures which I think helped them feel special. – **Kaylin Knowles**

Working as a volunteer at the Making It To The Finish Line lock-in was a great experience. Walking into it I thought it was going to be easy, but was challenged when trying to keep the girls engaged. We talked a lot about attitude and effort in everything we did which I found to be extremely important. I really enjoyed the vision board activity and the dance lessons with Ms. Mimi. All in all I think I learned some valuable things about self-branding, self-love and female unity. Every young girl should experience the Making It To The Finish Line lock-in. See you next year....at the finish line. – **Olivia Pearson**

First, I would like to thank you Mrs. Pearson for allowing me to participate in the lock-in. I had a lot of fun with the girl & I enjoyed seeing young girls have a good time in a safe environment. I found this opportunity, through Volunteer Match and was a little apprehensive. When the girls started to come into the activities hall, I immediately was welcomed into the group along with the other volunteers and I know it would be a good night from that point on. Mrs. Pearson & this program, are something really special and I hope to be involved with "Make It To The Finish Line" for more years to come. – **Mia Perkins.**

I was in the program when I was 13 years old, an upcoming high school freshman. This experience was good. I learned about how girls view social media and their hobbies. I

saw people that I knew from 2013 and new faces. From what I saw, the children enjoyed themselves. They were smiling, laughing and dancing the whole night. I enjoyed being with the kids and it reminded me about the times I had when I was here. -

Charla Franklin, Class of 2017, Renaissance High School