



Friends of the Children King County

Meet Demarco

One person, over time, can turn a life around.

Child's Name:

Demarco 

Age: 11 


Friend since:

2002 

Hobbies:

Chess, football

Aspires To Be:

Professional
football player 

Mentor:

Upendo  

"I hope the program never ends. I want to stay in the program forever."

--Demarco



Demarco is eleven years old, and in fourth grade. He lives with his mother and four year old brother in a small apartment. They often struggle to pay their bills and sometimes do not have enough money to put food on the table.

Throughout much of his childhood Demarco's mom was in an abusive relationship with a boyfriend. This directly effected Demarco. He saw his mom and boyfriend get into fights, some of which resulted in police intervention. Thereafter,

Demarco would go to school and be aggressive towards his classmates and had trouble controlling his anger.

Demarco was also exposed to drug use in his home, both by his mom and her boyfriend. Demarco would sometimes be neglected to support their drug habit, or would not have an adult who could support and supervise him. This situation also caused anger issues and gave him confusing messages about drugs.

With the help of his mentor, Upendo, Demarco is able to understand his situation and focus his energy in positive ways. Through the loving support of Upendo, Demarco's self-esteem has blossomed. He communicates his feelings and ideas better and is more open about his life. Upendo has helped him to see his strengths and use them well. He is a much happier, more capable child.

Demarco has also been given the chance to just be a kid. He loves to do kid-friendly activities with Upendo such as museum tours, throwing a football, playing a game of chess, or learning about African American history. Demarco knows there is one adult he can always count on to listen, play, and support his dreams – his mentor. He is so happy to have this unwavering support that he often asks Upendo, "can I stay in the program forever?"