Cesar “CJ” Vargas’ Story

CJ’s involvement with Corazon first started through the Violence Prevention program back in 2012. After moving to Cicero from Chicago, he began having issues with local gang members and had an altercation that endangered his life. CJ met key staff from the Violence Prevention Department during a community event, and established a relationship with them. The Violence Prevention team were able to mediate the altercation CJ had and diffuse the problem.

“Corazon was the game changer in my life...everybody at Corazon contributed to my life...they showed me how to be a professional and pursue my future goals.”

Shortly after, CJ began volunteering with Corazon through community events and helped lead a Community Mural, along with youth from the area. He was later able to take part in Corazon’s Summer Work Program and was employed at the agency, allowing him to continue to be a mentor to other community youth.

Today, CJ is attending Morton College, studying Applied Science & Computer Design; his goal is to be Computer Drafting Engineer. Regardless of his career path, he hopes to continue to volunteer his time at Corazon and continue to be an example/mentor to other young men in the community.