



AGE: 12

LOCATION:
Cocoa, FL

Celebrating Success and Transforming Lives.

The Eckerd Connects Success Award recognizes individuals who have overcome adversity, demonstrated resilience, and achieved remarkable success through their involvement with Eckerd Connects programs. These inspiring stories showcase the transformative impact of our programs in empowering individuals to overcome obstacles and build a brighter future.

KAYDEN

"I have always looked up to the stars and wondered what is up there. I feel like there is more than we know.... I think that in hundreds of years we may learn that aliens do exist."

SUCCESS AWARD:
Annual Pass for Kennedy Space Center with Food and Transportation

Kayden has not had it easy. His father works hard but struggles to make ends meet. Kayden's mother hasn't been a part of his life since infancy. Mostly, Kayden lives with his grandparents who also care for three other grandchildren. In past years, Kayden has struggled academically. But since entering the Eckerd Connects' Prevention, Hi-Five Brevard program he has made dramatic improvements, not only academically but also in his social and emotional skills. When asked about the changes he has made, Kayden said, "I remember we talked about how keeping your emotions inside and not talking about them can make us explode. So, I've tried to find ways to share and deal with my emotions."

Kayden's dream is to become an astronaut and his one wish from the Eckerd Connects' Awards Program was for an annual pass to the Kennedy Space Center. The award he received not only provided the pass, but also money for food and transportation.

"Having this pass would also help me be able to distract myself from the hard things in my life and feel happy. It's a place I could go where I know I won't feel sad or mad. I run a lot, I write in a journal and listen to music to help deal with bad emotions. I think this could be another good coping skill to use. It would also give us something to do together as a family... It would be a good bonding time."

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESS AWARD:

Your support can make a difference in the lives of individuals striving for success. Consider making a contribution to the Eckerd Connects Success Award to help us continue our mission of transforming lives. Visit our donation page to contribute and make a positive impact today.

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