Sometimes all a person needs is a hand up. This was the case with Jovan. Jovan dropped out of high school when he was 17 and got a minimum wage job that couldn't pay the bills. Although he looked for higher paying jobs, he did not have the skills to command an increased wage and continued to struggle financially.

At 19, Jovan learned about ADVOCAP's Fresh Start youth work program through a family friend. Upon acceptance into the program, he set ambitious goals of obtaining an education and work experience and improving his social and life skills.

Over a 12-month period, he obtained his high school diploma, forklift certification, and CPR certification. He also completed a financial literacy program and obtained RentSmart certification. He is now employed at a manufacturing company in Fond du Lac and has his own apartment.

But Jovan isn't content with his success. He plans to pursue additional education as a machinist or electrician and to one day own his own home. He is also looking forward to his upcoming marriage in July and starting a family.

Jovan says, "This program has enabled me to finally feel successful in life. Becoming a member of the Fresh Start program was the best choice I ever made."