

Do we need a safe space?

"Back in the old days I felt like it was my freedom to just shoot around and play. I used to go six days a week and it really meant everything to me. To watch the adult league games on Wednesday nights, go swimming, and just chill"

"It helped me stay active and had a good, positive vibe. There was no drama. I didn't have to worry"

"Working at the YMCA meant a ton to me, I felt like I was finally doing something to give back. When I was a kid I spent almost everyday at the YMCA and those people who were doing the same job as, before me, really shaped me into the person I was/am. Now I can do that with Breakthrough"

"It was a place I could go and always feel safe"

"Nick, it meant everything. It was my whole childhood whether I was playing basketball or just running around in there. It helped me with everything I do today. Basically basketball, people skills, and taught me how to swim. It was great"

"It gave me a place of belonging where I didn't have to worry about any of the craziness in my life. Kept me off of the streets and gave me hobbies that were healthy"

"It gave me my friends. People that I could trust and count on. Even on a bad day. They kept me going. They made me want to do good. Not end up like some of my other family"

"Kept me out of trouble. You guys watched me grow up and I really feel like all of you were a part of it"

"I will forever remember what you (Nick) did for us. Carrie, Jenna, Laycia and everyone else too"



"Having the old days meant family. On bad days I still had a good day at work. Coworkers supported coworkers. Now I have that again with the Breakthrough team"

"Man, so many memories. When I just needed a place to be. I felt safe. I had basketball, friends, and food"