



The Glen Mills School: Turning Lives Around Since 1826

By Brad Segall, Communications Coordinator

The Glen Mills School in Delaware County is more than 1700 miles from 16-year-old Angel K's home in San Antonio, Texas. He wakes up every day inside Lincoln Hall, one of the red brick residential buildings on the sprawling Delaware County campus and is thankful for the opportunity he has here, learning a trade and getting his life back on track instead of spending time in a youth facility in Texas. Angel's story is not unusual for the residents at Glen Mills, all of whom are between 12-18, gotten in with the wrong crowd in their hometowns, and were offered Glen Mills as an alternative to detainment in a youth detention center. Although Angel had never been to Pennsylvania, he was fortunate to find himself at Glen Mills instead of serving his sentence of nine to eighteen months in Texas. After learning about the Glen Mills School, he believed the programs here would give him his best shot of straightening out and living a productive and fulfilling life. He works hard every day at Glen Mills, studying, mentoring and participating in the campus activities.

Since the age of 11, Angel says he wanted to be a barber, creating his own hair style and styles for others. One of the reasons why he selected Glen Mills was for its career and technical education programs; his choices were barbering and landscaping. He hopes to one day own a barber shop. While on campus, he will also earn his GED.

Angel says he's confident he can stay on the right track. "When people give you criticism here it is constructive; they're trying to help so you don't go back down the wrong road," he said while talking about one of the challenges

he faces on campus every day—controlling his temper; he has been working diligently with staff and other students to get that under control. When new students arrive at the school, Angel is one of the first to welcome them and explain that being at Glen Mills is better than the life they had and better than where they could have gone. It presents a great opportunity that they should fully take advantage of.

Erik Malmstrom, Staff Leader at Lincoln Hall, says Angel gets along with everybody, loves to draw and gets involved in extra-curricular activities. He's on the power lifting team and is the manager for the Glen Mills football team. "If it is out of the ordinary, Angel is always interested in trying it out," says Erik.

Angel has been at Glen Mills since July 2016, Malmstrom says, adding "He eventually wants to be with his family to start building a life, but some issues with his grandparents in Texas have prevented that from happening right now. Angel is making the most of his stay at Glen Mills until the time is right." Nonetheless, Angel does hope to be back home with his family for the holidays to show them how he has grown and matured, and maybe even practice his new barber skills on a few relatives.

The Glen Mills Schools is an open residential school in suburban Philadelphia for court- adjudicated youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Founded in 1826, GMS is the oldest continuous operating school of its kind in the United States. For more information, visit www.glenmillsschools.org

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