

Cal found his way to Enterprise as a 15 year old sophomore at CMA. He looked at our program as a way to a job and possibly a way out of his financial situation.

Cals' parents were both immigrants, his mother from El Salvador, his father from Mexico. Both had limited education and came to the states to find their American Dream. They raised Cal and his brother doing primarily fast food jobs and other low paying jobs around the city. They raised Cal in the Tenderloin until he was seven and then lived in public housing in the Outer Mission and Oceanview. Cal is an LGBT youth and went through school using the free lunch program. He was often bullied and in 6th and 7th grades it went as far as physical abuse by his peers. Life was not easy, but his family was incredibly supportive and loving and along with his parents, his grandmother lived with the family to offer Cal even more support.

Once in our program, Cal thrived. He found in Enterprise a second family. He would come to our offices even on days he had no reason to visit just because he liked being around our staff that much! He found support not only with our curriculum but support in dealing with issues surrounding his sexuality. The longer he was in our program and part of Enterprise the more we saw the confidence build in him and his personality really blossom.

Cal was hired at Stonestown as a TWA GAP intern after completing the program and once he completed his internship he was asked to stay on as a staff member of the store where he went on to work for 2 ½ years! He took advantage of other opportunities within Enterprise and was part of the inaugural "Enterprise Youth Council"; held a CEP internship at the California College of the Arts in the Summer of 2013; a Fall 2014 internship at Kaiser Permanente within the Public Affairs office and has worked as a speaker at many of our events. Before Enterprise Cal hadn't been part of any other "youth programs" but once he found us, we were able to help him navigate his way into other opportunities such as "Youth Rising Above" where he joined and would eventually win a college scholarship.

During this time, hard times really hit his family hard. His parents had co-signed a student loan for his brother and ended up getting into major debt in doing so. Cal said there were times that bills would go unpaid and food was scarce. He was so happy to have his job at the Gap that he recalled a time that he had \$30 in his pocket and decided to pick up a few groceries before going home; his grandmother was so touched and happy that it almost brought her to tears. He says that being able to help his family financially is what makes him most proud.

Cal will start his junior year at UC Santa Cruz this fall.