

# YMCA ATLP Client Story

Back in December 2023 this youth set the goal for herself to have \$6000 in her savings account by December 2024, which is when she wants to move into her own apartment. She wanted to have savings to feel more secure.

One of the very first things we learned about her was that she has been to Hawaii once in her life and loved it. She dreams of one day moving there and becoming a marine biologist. I remember several months ago she told me how badly she wanted to plan a vacation and was hopeful she could do that "some day."

That's some additional context for the fact that she reached her savings goal in half the time and hit \$6000 in JUNE!

Because she was so far ahead with her goal and turned 18 in June she decided to plan a trip to Hawaii this July. It might sound like a small thing, but I can't say enough how big this is for her. She works SO hard and is so disciplined about saving her money. Literally our whole team has been celebrating this win for her. She's said so many times how proud she is of herself, especially because she did this all on her own!

This is the same youth who has previously told me how much she loves living at McGrath, that we actually do things differently here, and she feels like we actually treat her like an adult. An incredibly impactful thing she told me a few months ago was that she realized living at McGrath is the first time in her life she "hasn't been in fight or flight mode, and can stop and just be."

I can't even tell you how much it meant to me to hear that.

