

## Larico

*"I feel like the sacrifices that I made weren't worth it. They weren't worth it at all. I could have been something better."*

"Larico" joined a gang when he was 13 years old, looking for love and a way to survive the harsh realities of the community in which he grew up. At age 18, right before he started his senior year of high school, he was arrested for possession of a firearm and given a sentence of 25 months in prison.

"It's all about survival," he said. "You gotta do whatever you have to do to survive. Some people was fed on a silver spoon; we wasn't. We had to get out and do it the way that we knew how because we never had anybody that could buy us no shoes or anything like that. We had to get out and get all that on our own."

While in prison, Larico spent time with older inmates and read many books. By the time he went back home, he had decided to change his life. Instead of returning to a life of crime, he wanted to instead finish earning his GED after passing four of the five tests while in prison.

Larico heard about a GED program through a friend, and enrolled. As soon as he passes his fifth test, he will enroll in the automotive program at Durham Tech. The GED program will help him obtain a full scholarship, enabling him to attend school for free. Larico feels as if the program has given him a second chance.

"I got out in 2011. I've been home for a year and some months now," Larico said. "I haven't been in one fight, I haven't touched one gun, I haven't been to jail, I haven't been placed in handcuffs, I haven't broken the law. So I got back in school, I'm handling my business, I got one GED left, and then I have a free scholarship to Durham Tech. You can't beat it, so why would I go out and do anything that's crazy to jeopardize that?"