

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the National Safe Place Network for honoring me with the 2020 Helping Hands award. I'm beyond blessed and thankful for getting this award. I'm able to get this award because of the Y-NOW mentoring program. This program is for you youth like me with incarcerated parents. It's a 10 month long mentoring program and I love it so much, it's like the best program I've ever ran into. After I graduated the program I decided to come back as a youth leader because I've seen what I really want to do during the program. I wanted to help youth like me. I wanted to be a positive role model for youth like me and that's why I came back and volunteered. For the past five years I've been a youth leader and I've really seen what I wanted to do. The Y-NOW mentoring program has given me the opportunity to share my story in front of 500 plus people more than once. I've been able to receive a scholarship off this program. I've been able to do a whole lot of different things - community outreach and all - but first and foremost I am able to get in front of youth and be that helping hand for youth, and make sure a youth's day is better - even when mine is not. That's why I love volunteering and that's what's going to keep me come back to volunteering. I would like to thank again the National Safe Place Network for honoring me with the 2020 Helping Hands award. Thank you so much for everything you guys do and everything that you continue to do. Thank you so much.