

MEET ANGEL

When Angel joined the New Leash program, he was interested in bettering himself—but he was primarily motivated to continue because it meant that his sentence would be cut in half.



He soon found that the program, and his dog, “added light to the darkness.” He felt a strong kinship with the dogs in the kennels, whose experience mirrored his own. In an environment where trust was scarce, Angel grew to appreciate a true friend and companion.

The strong bond he formed with New Leash staff members continued to overcome his resistance to trust: Angel appreciated the constant communication and

support he received from New Leash compared to other programs. He values his relationships with the staff and credits them with helping him find community, employment, transportation, and his GED program.

The biggest difference between Angel’s perspective before and after New Leash is his focus on building “generational wealth instead of generational trauma.” New Leash taught Angel to identify his emotions head on instead of pushing them away, and now he uses journaling as a grounding technique to cope. He has a stronger relationship with his daughter, and he’s determined to stop engaging in damaging or reckless behavior.

Goal setting has been immensely helpful to Angel as he continues on his path toward a better future. He has a manifestation wall to remind himself where he’s been and where he wants to be, and his current goals show how determined he is to succeed. Angel hopes to build a stronger relationship with his daughter, meditate more, obtain his CDL license, get a well paying job in the industry, and build his credit up to an 850.

Since being released Angel’s been anything but stagnant: he’s been in the news, on stage with councilwoman Helen Gym and has been shining a light on the many issues regarding the justice system. Angel’s been out of prison since May of 2022, and instead of falling back into negative behaviors, Angel’s been doing his best to motivate the people around him to make positive changes in their lives as well. He’s set boundaries with people who have a different lifestyle, and he sees himself as a keystone in his community, inspiring the youth and actively working to make generational change.

Today Angel is working as an animal protection officer at the Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia.