

Becoming Unstoppable: Catching up with Foster Nation

Transcript

00:00:18:23 - 00:00:39:16

MAGGIE LIN:

Before we became a Purple Paladin, we had been primarily focused on how do we address the highest needs of the foster youth in that moment? That was helping address food insecurity. And so our programs were primarily focused around how do we make sure youth had access to a meal a day versus now, fast forward to 2024.

00:00:39:17 - 00:01:00:19

MAGGIE LIN:

We're at a place where we're helping foster youth, not just get by day to day. We're helping them figure out how to reach their greatest potential. When we were first the Purple Paladin back in 2021. The Sparks program was just a little dream that we had, and there was a lot of research being done and development and, you know, building relationships in the community.

00:01:01:00 - 00:01:28:15

MAGGIE LIN:

But now we're at a point where we have proven success record, and we also have the outcomes and more. The Sparks program is a mentorship program that matches current and former foster youth with a one-on-one coach to help them develop foundational life and professional skills. The goal of the Sparks program is really to help build community around foster youth, because we believe that a meaningful connection can change the life of a foster youth.

00:01:28:17 - 00:01:51:04

HILTON BROWN:

The Sparks program surprised me because of the

resiliency of these young adults. They've been in so many places where you would be filled with fear and apprehension and not wanting to take that leap, yet they're still willing to take that leap as the coach, as the mentor, to be with a mentee on the journey. It's just a beautiful thing.

00:01:51:06 - 00:02:06:13

BRINTON REED:

Sparks has made a difference in my career in the form of some of those things on the curriculum did apply to me, you know, I did learn some of the things you know about, Promptness showing up on time and image. So they definitely made an impact on career.

00:02:06:15 - 00:02:35:17

MAGGIE LIN:

We're actually planning to scale in a really big way in the next year. Since launching the program in 2022, we've served about a 100 foster youth every year, and by this next year, we're hoping to serve 300 foster youth just in that year alone. I think what surprised me most about being a Purple Paladin and being involved with Grant Thornton is just how thoughtful the company has been with the way that they've supported Foster Nation.

00:02:35:19 - 00:02:45:08

MAGGIE LIN:

They've really developed this community and nurture this community of all the Purple Paladins. I'm Maggie Lin, founder of Foster Nation, and I'm becoming unstoppable.

