HOW DOES A NEIGHBORHOOD KID BEAT THE ODDS AND GROW UP TO BECOME A NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER?
Demitri Carpenter knows this first hand. As a young man growing up in Birmingham’s Woodlawn area, his father was in jail and his mother worked long hours to support the family. Temptation was all around. Demitri needed a mentor, a father figure, and someone to lead him away from temptation. He found that — and much more — at Christ Health Center.

“Without Dr. Record and Christ Health Center, I would either be in prison or be dead,” Demitri said. “But when I was a junior in high school I met Dr. Record for the first time and he told me ‘God has a plan for you,’ and he was right.”
Q: YOU ARE NOW THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR FOR THE CENTER. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WAS GOD’S PLAN FOR YOU?

DEMETRI: “A few years after I first met Dr. Record, I was in a bad place. I needed financial and spiritual assistance. I was given a job answering phones at Christ Health Center and I realized helping people is my passion. It’s my calling.”

“Now, my job is to tell people about Christ Health Center,” Demitri said. “My message is that somebody cares, and we want to help. I tell them about our services. I bring them into our facility to get the care they need.”

Q: CHRIST HEALTH CENTER HAD MORE THAN 13,000 MEDICAL VISITS AND 4,200 DENTAL PATIENTS IN THE PAST YEAR. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU’RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

A: “Everyone in this community loves Christ Health Center,” Demitri continued. “It’s a place you can go to the doctor, but here there’s also a commitment to the community unlike other clinics. We go way beyond what you see in the lobby.”

“We take people to job interviews, help them find services, drive them around. This weekend I’ll be handing out free hygiene kits at a community event. We’re always working to make people well, make them whole, and show them the love of Christ in action.”
Q: YOU BELIEVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST HEALTH CENTER SAVED YOUR LIFE, AND NOW YOU'RE DOING THE SAME FOR OTHERS.

A: “When I was growing up, I didn’t know how to work, and I never thought I was smart,” Demitri said. “Dr. Record and the people at this clinic showed me I had value, and I could make a contribution.”

“Now, I’m mentoring a group of young men at Woodlawn High School. I meet and pray with the football team on Thursday nights. I’m studying to be a pastor. Christ Health Center turned me into someone who wants to and knows how to help others.”

Q: YOU FINISHED YOUR DEGREE ONLINE AFTER YOU STARTED WORKING AT CHRIST HEALTH CENTER. YOU HAVE LEARNED AND GROWN SO MUCH. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

A: “I want to be right here, helping others, building up the community, being a positive male influence for young men, and sharing God’s love,” Demitri said. “Christ Health Center has answered many prayers in this community. I want to continue to help the people here feel better and get closer to God.”
Thank you for everything you do to make Christ Health Center a place of hope. When we look around the community we see the same things you see in Demetri—potential, promise and hope. Thank you again for helping us meet the healthcare needs of the community. Together we are seeing the sick made well and the well made whole.

Your prayers are essential as we continue to grow. Please regularly lift up this work, the patients who call it home and the people who serve here. Expansion opportunities exist all over the city and region, and we want to reflect God’s glory precisely where he would have us.

Should you want to support this work of providing healthcare and community to neighbors in need, we welcome your contribution as we seek to raise our goal of raising $400,000 to offset our expenses.

Thank you again for your support.

Brant McDuffie

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<td>MEDICAL VISITS</td>
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