

Youth of the Year candidate - Meet Godgave

"I was born and raised in the United States, but my mom arrived here as a refugee from Liberia. She left to escape the horrendous tragedies occurring there to give us a better life. It wasn't easy as a single mother and life could be rough for me and my sister at times. We have gone without often.

Football became a distraction for me and something I enjoyed. I wasn't fortunate enough to be part of a private football program but once high school started I was able to join my school team and it had a big impact on me. I was able to quit daydreaming about being a football star and start really getting to play. Joining the team was a dream come true but it provided me more than I expected. The discipline has taught me that life is what you make it. I've had the opportunity to give back and volunteer at church and homeless shelters. It's through these lessons and experiences I decided that I had an interest in non-profit business administration. I plan to attend the University of South Dakota next year and will be one of the first in my family to attend college.

When I was presented with the opportunity to be part of the Workforce Development program at the Boys & Girls Club, I knew it was the perfect addition that would really help me explore what I plan to study in college. The Club has shown me a variety of aspects of non-profit(s) and provided shadowing opportunities with other non-profits, like Zeal Center for Entrepreneurship + Startup Sioux Falls. I couldn't have dreamed of a better opportunity and the support I've been given by staff at the Club who have become real mentors in my life. All of these have really prepared me for the next step. From an unstable childhood to becoming a senior ready to graduate with a clear vision and goal for the future, I'm proud of what I have accomplished."