

Jazz Causey  
8/3/15

## My Journey

To all who may read,

My whole life I have worked my hardest. Since I was in elementary school at Boise Elliot I always did the extra to better myself. Life has been a struggle not having the most money and growing up in a tough neighborhood but I've managed to overlook that and focus on my future. Sports have always been a big part of my life. Playing sports has kept me off the streets and has kept me focused and motivated to make a difference in this world. As a kid I moved houses a lot and sports is the only thing that kept me happy. Me and my uncle did cycling together back when I was in elementary and that helped me learn discipline and teamwork. I worked hard to do that even though I was a young kid. Life is about overcoming the hard times so you can live the great times of life. Last spring my life took another turn. I got kicked out of my house and I didn't know how to take it. I started hanging with gang members and doing dumb things. I was barely going to school and my grades dropped badly. I had no where to live permanently and still don't. Once Coach Johnson came during the end of the year he gave me a new hope. I stopped being foolish and worked to get my grades up to passing.

grades so I could play football and get back on track to graduate. I ended up failing only 3 classes. During the summer I was still hopping houses but I still played football and went to summer school with upward bound to get my .5 credit of english I am missing. I worked hard to pass that summer school class and was told that I passed. It turns out I didn't and it breaks my heart. To not play football this year would destroy me. I've focused on school first and sports second so that I will hopefully have a chance to go to college and further my education. I'm determined to make a difference in life no matter what obstacles I am facing. The streets aren't for me and I don't want to be forced back on it because of a .5 credit. That credit is going to be fixed as soon as possible but I don't want to be forced off the field because of it. All I need is a chance that not even my parents have gave me. Nothing is giving to you, everything is earned and I will do anything possible to earn a better chance in life. One chance to show the world that I'm not the same is all I need. Please don't turn your back on me and I promise I won't let you down. Thank you!

James Barfield (uncle)  
8/31/15

### My story of Jazz...

Back in 2006 Jazz was only 8 years old when I decided to bring him into cycling. Before I can bring him into cycling John which was my bike coach and soon to be Jazz, knew how dangerous cycling is for a kid at that age. John bought a brand new bike but there was only one problem it had an extra seat. John gave me the tandem and told me only let someone ride on the back that you trust. And that was Jazz, through cycling Jazz learned how to ride a tandem and push his self beyond his limits, even when it seems impossible Jazz had a sense of urgency. until this very day Jazz never stop pedaling

