

## The Academy Caught Doing Something Right with Zachary L.

Less than a year ago, Zachary L.'s (PO Hurst) future was somewhat unclear. Although Judge Hens Greco undoubtedly saw the potential that this young man possessed, she also recognized his need for guidance, mentoring and structure. When she committed him to The Academy Integrated Program in January of 2012, Zach quickly realized that they had all of the resources that he required to create an effective plan for his future and achieve success.

After six months of attending the program, Zach had not only participated in valuable counseling programs, learned hands-on trade skills and developed improved decisions-making capabilities; he had also completed his educational requirements to graduate with The Academy Charter School Class of 2012. During that time, Zach also created an original poster creation for entry in the Juvenile Judges' Commission Poster Contest. He was notified not long after that his entry (pictured below) was selected as a winner. Zach, accompanied by Academy staff members, plans to travel to Harrisburg with his family for the JCJC Conference to receive his award.

The Academy's positive impact on Zach did not end following his high school graduation and release from the Integrated Program. Recently, The Academy was pleased to offer Zach employment and he

has quickly established himself as a productive and reliable member of the Maintenance team. Specifically, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic and aptitude for learning new skills. Zach's employment arrangement is especially unique because he does not currently possess a driver's license. As a result, The Academy has agreed to provide him with daily transportation to and from each shift. In addition, he continues to work with Academy staff members who are assisting him with preparations to acquire his license. In his efforts toward that goal, Zach has also opened a savings account and is extremely proud to have established his direct deposit. As he continues to develop in his job, he looks forward to purchasing his own vehicle, as well as exploring his options to continue his education.

We are extremely proud of Zach L. and commend The Academy for going the extra mile to provide this young man with not only the skills to acquire employment but more importantly the opportunity and means to put those skills to use. Congratulations to Zach and The Academy for "being caught doing something right".

