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LCF Academic Coach

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Hello, my name is Ryan. I'm currently a student at NDSU going for my bachelor Degree in Education, specifically History Education. I am a board member for Legacy and a supervisor tutor. I feel very fortunate being a board member and working first hand with the kids almost every day. I get to see the ins and outs of how operating and funding an organization like Legacy Children's Foundation works. I also get to see the first hand effects of how it changes each and every child that participates in the program.

One student in Legacy who I've worked with closely since I've been a tutor has been Junior. When I first met Junior, I noticed a couple of very obvious things that I'm sure many of you have already noticed... Junior has one of the biggest smiles around, and he loves to show it off! At first, Junior would only be in the Homework room after school with us for about a half an hour because he had play practice every day after school. So like any other tutor, I wanted to help him more. His grades weren't the best and in a couple of classes he struggled just to get a passing grade. Once the play was over with, I was extremely happy because I felt like he had time to now focus on his school work.... well I was wrong.

I found out I was not only dealing with a talented play student, but also a basketball and football player, track thrower, and wrestling enthusiast! Wow! I thought to myself. No wonder why this young man struggles in some classes! He's so busy after school going from one activity to another that he hardly gets a break! Burnt out? That would probably be an understatement. I then realized this young man just needed some help in some classes to help give his grades a good boost!

For the past 2 years I've been working with Junior and have seen a great improvement in not only his grades but also a grown in the young man he has become today. Yes, he is still the same shy and smiling young man I met 2 years ago, but his personality and his drive to succeed in not only the classroom but outside of the classroom has grown tremendously. I've witnessed a struggling young man with so much going on in his life go from struggling class to class to now, every quarter is achieving at least the B honor roll (if not B then the A honor roll) He is one of the top students in his class and he manages to achieve this while being very active in many different sports year round. Junior is not the only life that has been effected by Legacy Children's Foundation. I see kids every day, in every situation you can think of, changed by Legacy Children's Foundation. Who knows, maybe one day Junior will grow up to be a teacher teaching my kids or your grandkids. Or an aspiring doctor who finds a cure to a disease. Or maybe when you're at the lake relaxing and you open a book, you open up a book wrote by a famous new author, Junior. Thanks for coming everybody and just remember, education one student today...changes many lives forever!