



## Antwnazia Fant's Story of Success

*Article written by Nick Lazaro*

Some would call the accomplishments of Antwnazia Fant a miracle, but those of us who have seen and worked with her as she has grown up, would not. The definition of a miracle explains the word to be unexplainable, unlikely, or surprising...these are words that do not define Antwnazia's success. As she would say 'I followed my own path, I kept a smile on my face and even though it sucked sometimes, I kept my head up and moved on.' You can see truth in these words from when she joined the ICYO family at the age of 7, any and everybody could tell that she was extremely hard working, persistent, and driven to achieve every feat that she has, and let it be told that there is an abundance of admirable feats that Antwnazia Fant has achieved.

Antwnazia's story is nothing less than remarkable. From being the shy young girl with wide eyes, to graduating with two scholarships you could describe her 'story' as more of a 'novel'. Filled with hardships and road bumps, perseverance and courage, followed by success and reward, Antwnazia's journey truly makes for an epic novel that I would be honored to tell the contents of.

Antwnazia Fant has never let her environment around her control how she took hold of life. In fact, she used her determination to be a positive role model in her peer's lives that they may not have at home. She never let a societal standard or peer influenced fad stop her

from being her true self, she told me this to further back that up- "I'd rather be hated for being myself than loved for pretending to be someone else". Everything she did revolved around being who she truly is, inspiring younger and older peers in the ICYO program and life in general to do the same. Seeing Antwnazia constantly attend school, encourages her friends in the program to do the same.

Not only did Antwnazia attend school, but she participated in several extracurricular activities as well.

As she grew older and became more comfortable as the inspiring woman she is, Antwnazia fell in love with the art of theater. She grew a liking to performing and is spectacular at just that. A fantastic dancer, singer, and actor Antwnazia knew she wanted to further pursue theater, and if you have ever witnessed her performance of the art you would understand why.

In a school production at Withrow High School Antwnazia put on a spectacle of a show with her talent and amazed many. As Withrow had its arts programs defunded, when they decided they were going to bring it back, she decided she was going to be a pioneer in the restoration of arts in her school. The excellence of her craft in theater has been recognized by Northern Kentucky University, by her working for and rightfully

earning two scholarships of great honor. These scholarships included funds for dorm necessities and funds for showing astounding leadership throughout high school.

Antwnazia was never afraid to immerse herself into all things that she was passionate about. Anything that she was interested in, she did, with no fear holding her back. From doing an exchange program to Taiwan to leading her anime club for four years in high school

there was never a shred of doubt or angst that could hold Antwnazia back from doing what she loved.

Today she continues to relay that message to the younger generation in ICYO and genuinely just exudes that energy from her upbeat personality.

As time goes on, our family at ICYO is ecstatic to see what marvelous path Antwnazia continues to go on in life. For all the support she has given her peer's and those who look up to her she has truly been a backbone in the beliefs and philosophy of our program.

What a pleasure it has been to witness and continue to observe the beautiful success and hard work that Antwnazia has manifested into reality for herself.

It has truly been an honor to be a support system backing Antwnazia as she grows up. From all the ICYO family, we congratulate Antwnazia Fant in everything she has achieved and will continue to achieve.