I found out I was pregnant, and at first, I wanted to stay in high school. But when I thought about it, I realized this would be better for me. It seemed like a good opportunity.

This program is different from high school because at school you are always trapped inside. The day starts later here and it seems like the days go faster. You have no homework and no tests. Here they prepare you for the GED and give you samples of the test to work on. I just passed the reading test. I will take the history and math next.

I want to be an auto mechanic. My Dad is a mechanic, and I worked for him as an assistant from the age of 7. By the time I was 9, I was lifting tires and helping him out. I am going to check out the mechanic’s workshop at the college. I would definitely recommend the New Jersey Youth Corps program to someone who needs a high school diploma, or if they were pregnant like me. They should do this while they can.

To enroll, or to find out more about the New Jersey Youth Corps, call 973-940-3500 or visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org.

- High School Equivalency Diploma Education
- Work & Life Skills Training
- Personal & Career Counseling
- Help with Next Steps: College, Career, Military
- Transportation & Child Care
- $100 Weekly Stipend