

**THIS IS ONEIDA
A BETTER STUDENT, BROTHER, SON, AND FRIEND**

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

--Isaiah 40:3-5



The following is a testimony of one of our 2013 graduates:

“My life before OBI was broken into a million pieces by depression, drugs, alcohol, anger, and defiance. I was left at home alone a lot because whenever I had a baby sitter to watch me, I would be so rude and disrespectful to them that they didn’t ever want to watch me again. I became so defiant that my mom wouldn’t come home after work without stopping at the bar to have a couple of beers with her friends. I would be home alone with no one to tell me what to do or help me with my homework. My grades began to fall. At fourteen, I started smoking weed and found it as a feeling that made me happy. I didn’t realize the effects it had on my family until long after, because we had always fought and yelled when we were together.

“When I was sixteen going on seventeen, my mom was diagnosed with cancer and it sort of shook me back to reality for a short time, but then I sank straight back down to where I had been before. Two months after I turned seventeen, my mom found the bowl that I used for smoking weed. We continued to get into bad arguments, and one day, after the worst argument we ever had, I told her I wanted to leave. I wasn’t happy there anymore. Mom called my dad and told him, and a couple of weeks later I was brought to OBI.

“I came to OBI when I proved to Mom that I couldn’t be trusted or handle the responsibility of living at home and going to school without an adult at home while she was away from home receiving her cancer treatments. When I first came to OBI I was only supposed to be there for the time that Mom was having her treatments, but because of the improvements I made while I was here, I was told I had to stay. On January 9, 2013 I was saved and on May 13, 2012 I was baptized. Due to my spiritual and educational progress and many great blessings, I decided to stay at OBI until I graduated.

“While attending OBI, I became a better student due to my advances in study habits and my appreciation of education. I became a better son from the experience of almost losing my mother and coming to know God. I became a better brother because I realized how much my siblings meant to me when I was sent away from them. Because of the dorms, I learned how to be a better friend. And I became a better follower of Christ due to the presence of Christian staff members, teachers, and houseparents.”

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