

Anthony Grissett Bio:



Hi, I am Anthony Grissett. I was born and raised in Newark NJ. I'm from a neighborhood that is overwhelmingly riddled with crime, gang violence, drug dealers, and drug users. Just about every day or every other day I would hear about someone who had been killed due to gun violence. My environment contributed to my downhill slide. Most of the men I looked up to were drug dealers and gang members. They were my idea of success, so I wanted to be just like them; so much so that I modeled my behavior after them.

I began to turn around when my girlfriend got pregnant and I realized I was going to be a father. I wanted to create a better life for my son so I stopped hanging out with my old gang, started going to church, reading the bible, making better friends that I believed would influence me in a positive way.

Over the course of years I have worked as a carpenter, barber, busboy, dishwasher, line cook, and janitor. When I got a job as a dishwasher at a local restaurant, I eventually became a line cook when I picked up cooking skills. I married my girlfriend and had three more children. They made me realize that life is not just about me. It forced me to think about how my decisions would affect my family. I completed my High School Diploma.

After marrying Keisha, my high school sweetheart, I moved to Rochester, NY. My faith gave me hope. There were so many people who saw that I was a young man struggling to support a young family so they offered their support - emotionally, spiritually, and financially. While working as a line cook at Chili's in the town of Greece, I met several 19th Ward residents, mostly members of a church there, who helped me to grow as a Christian, husband, father, professional, and friend. A member of that church group happened to be a general manager of a successful company. He decided to give me a shot at that company. I was trained and the rest is history. Three years ago, I moved my family to the 19th Ward to be closer to my church.

Since I have lived in this community, I have volunteered at His Branches in outreach events, been a karate instructor as part of a neighborhood ministry, coached for the Genesee Valley Little League, and helped MC the 19th Ward Square Fair for the past several years. I love speaking to people, motivating and inspiring people to grow as individuals and to do good to each other. Because of my background I know first-hand what street life is about, and I hope to help others rise from poverty and build a better community. I'm currently happily married with four children and work for Simplified Building as a Customer Service/ Inside Sales Rep. I also like to do Christian Rap as an expression of my faith and to help others struggling with similar situations to mine.