

Cahlil is willing to give anybody a chance. He will be there for you. He is really outgoing. He cares for me like a brother, like one of his own. We don't call each other mentors and mentees anymore, we call each other brothers. He always mentions me as his brother. I appreciate that because I'm not from Rochester, I'm not from this state, so he is like one of the only family that I've got.

He knows how to make a fun situation out of anything. There doesn't even have to be money involved, we don't have to go out to eat all of the time. One time we watched football at his friend's house and his wife had some great cooking. I've had my down moments sometimes and Cahlil will tell me about myself. He helps to lift me up like I lift him up.

My favorite part about being with him was his wedding. I was his man of honor; it is like something that you see out of a movie. They should make a movie out of it and call it, "The Mentor," or something. When he first asked me to be in the wedding, it was almost a whole year before, I was so happy. I was surprised that he had asked me, it was a big honor. He had the whole wedding set up; I didn't even have to buy a tuxedo. I got to meet his Dad and Mom, which was cool and his Dad was giving me advice, even on meeting girls.

I felt like it was my family, like I belonged. After the rehearsal, I felt like I just belonged, like I was doing a good thing for a family member. During the wedding, I didn't even realize I was standing in the wrong place, but it was all good because people were telling me how handsome I was. When Cahlil got married, I felt like he really deserved it. I felt like it was something you can't forget. Cahlil has always been there for me, for the fun times and not the fun times. This is all that happened; this is like, "The Adventures of Cahlil and JaQuan."

I also remember the time when we were on the news. That was great because we make a good team, we should have our own news show. After we were on the news, people recognized us and we were famous. Cahlil took me to a Buffalo Bulls college football game and on that day I wore a white shirt. On that day it was all muddy and we met new people when we were cooking out, white people, black people and Hispanics and the game got cancelled early because there was a thunder storm. We went back to Cahill's grandma's house and it was cool. Overall it's been a great two years and a lot of good stuff is happening.

Cahlil and JaQuan have been matched in the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program since 2008. Ja'Quan will soon graduate from high school and wants to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology.