

Dees Video Transcript – 2021

Transcript for Dee's Story

Alice Johnson:

You have touched every person in this room. Everyone believes in you.

Dee:

I just want to say thank y'all.

Alice Johnson:

This is a little something for you.

Speaker 1:

Alright, be right back. So here's the deal. I gotta come clean with you.

Dee:

Okay.

Speaker 1:

Because... (laughing)

Dee:

Oh! [crosstalk]

Speaker 1:

Dee, I met you when you were 14, and you came here, and when you did, you sent a message to me. You told me that all of this matters. You believed in the mission of this organization. So we went around the country and then we went to the Superbowl. You gave the speech to end all speeches.

Dee:

I was arrested. I ended up locked up for a whole year. I know I had a few setbacks in my life but it feels good to be in a room full of people that love you and believe in you.

Speaker 1:

And you had the entire room in tears, and remember after you got done, there was a lady that came up to you, and you told her that she changed your life. Remember that? You remember that lady? What was her name?

Dee:

Alice Johnson.

Speaker 1:

Yeah. And why did she change your life?

Dee:

[inaudible]

Alice Johnson:

I'm so proud. So proud of you. You have come a long, long way to here. You said I inspired you-

Dee:

Yeah-

Alice Johnson:

... but you inspired me. You got your high school diploma, you graduated, but not only did you graduate, you graduated as the valedictorian. (laughs) And now I hear that you're going to culinary school. You turned your life around. You got focused. You realized you had purpose, and there's some other people out there who would love to see you.

Dee:

Uh, I just want to say thank y'all. Ya never know when somebody going through something.

Alice Johnson:

Yes.

Dee:

I had my load of ups and downs, and I've been down.

Speaker 1:

We're never going to let you fall, Dee.

Alice Johnson:

And because we believe so much in you, the people here have a little something for you.

Speaker 6:

Tell us what you got.

Dee:

"We're paying for your culinary school tuition."

Alice Johnson:

We're paying for your culinary school tuition.

Speaker 7:

I had an amazing chance to meet you in Miami, and I love you. You don't know me, but I love you. Okay? We family now, honey. Okay?

Speaker 1:

We've been to Colorado Springs at the Stand Together event there and we saw something in you.

Speaker 8:

You have the gift of encouragement. We're talking about encouraging you, but you encourage others.

Speaker 9:

Everyone in here believes in you.

Speaker 10:

Yes.

Speaker 9:

Everyone is here for you.

Speaker 1:

Sorry not sorry. (laughs) I love you.