

# FORTUNE SOCIETY FREEDOM

An Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) program funded by the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice that provides a range of services to participants, including case management, family engagement, state-licensed mental health and substance use treatment, and Cognitive Behavior Therapy to individuals with open cases in Criminal and Supreme Courts in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens.



On December 19, 2019, SV\*, age 20, plead guilty to Robbery in the Second Degree (a Class C Felony) and Petit larceny (a Class A Misdemeanor), and was mandated to the Fortune Society's Freedom ATI program.

Upon enrolling in Freedom, SV struggled with program attendance, substance abuse, mental health issues, and lack of income. Following the Freedom treatment team's dedicated outreach efforts, SV agreed to attend weekly individual case management sessions with his Case Manager. After meeting with his Case Manager for 2 months, SV began attending group counseling regularly, and enrolled in mental health treatment and employment services. Through his participation in the program, SV also stopped using substances, which was reflected in his toxicology results.

During his 10 months in Freedom, SV engaged in evidence-based Moral Recognition Therapy, Anger Management, Seeking Safety, and Interactive Journaling groups. Through these sessions, he developed a greater sense of self-awareness and demonstrated his dedication to make sustained positive changes in his life.

SV utilized Fortune's Employment Services to obtain a part-time job with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) as a COVID-19 Relief Maintenance Worker. SV expresses great pride in his accomplishments. He has continued his mental health treatment, maintained his employment, and abstained from using substances. SV has not had any further contact with police or the criminal justice system since his enrollment in Freedom in December 2019.

SV successfully completed the Freedom ATI program on September 23, 2020. His felony charge was vacated and his case was dismissed. SV was also granted a Certificate of Relief from the court, which removes some legal barriers to employment.

"If I can do this, so can others," SV frequently tells his peers. " I want to make a change in my community, and it has to start with the youths."

*\*Name changed to protect participant's privacy*