

Daniel Martin
Brantford
LD 802

HEERO (Helping Everyone/Each Other Reach Out - a youth driven process for building networks of support around youth in care by youth in and from care; to mentor and guide youth in care toward positive life trajectories). The building of lifelong sustainable networks for youth in care is not only trajectory altering...but leads to these very same young people supporting other young people toward engaging the same. In that it is also an approach supporting youth to be future leaders. While the across the board goal and outcome is for youth to leave care to these networks of support as opposed to current outcomes of loneliness, hopelessness, the streets, other systems, poor health.

"I can't wait to finally speak again on HEERO and I hope that my experience and story with HEERO will give other children like myself an inspiration" (youth participant).

"I've been with HEERO for several years now. For me, HEERO has been a very transformative experience in more than one way. HEERO has helped connect me with relationships that I never thought were possible or that I was worthy of and has also helped me to grow my self-confidence as well as my self-worth. I enjoy the opportunity as a peer navigator to help other youth see their strengths and move them toward network and support" (youth participant and now peer navigator)

"...This connection and process of relationships reshapes and rewires how and who the youth lean on in their own lives. Our hope is that youth convene people who they see fit, beyond a 9-5 commitment and can truly feel a sense of belonging. This foundation of connection has proved to be life-changing in the trajectories of young people's lives." (participant and now youth advocate).