

The Long Road to Graduation

Connecting with Edwin was not easy. In fact, it took several months before Ari Addes, a CYC Outreach Specialist, was finally able to get in touch with him. However, Edwin was not living a typical high school student's life. Edwin was working two restaurant jobs while taking care of his 2 year old son. He quit one of his jobs in order to go back to school, but he was still working 40 hours a week and taking care of his family.

Ari helped Edwin enroll at Engage Academy and they both worked with the school to accommodate Edwin's schedule. He started out strong, showed up on time and worked hard. Then he missed two weeks to take care of his son when he became sick. Then he missed another week when he had to have an emergency appendectomy. By the end of May, it became clear that he wouldn't finish before the end of the school year.

Edwin only had 3 classes left in order to graduate and so he enrolled in summer school. However, classes were online and he didn't have access to a computer. He couldn't find any school resources to help him with a solution, but CYC was able to find him a computer. On July 29, 2015, Ari received an email from Edwin's teacher saying he had completed his last class. Ari could not be more proud of Edwin's hard work and dedication to his future.



Edwin and his son. Picture taken by Jeremy Papasso at the Daily Camera. Full Daily Camera article found here: www.dailycamera.com

Ari and Edwin recently met for coffee to catch up and celebrate his success. Edwin talked about his plans for the future. He loves working in the food industry and plans to stay there, but wants to learn more about the business side of running a restaurant. He hopes to take some business classes at Front Range Community College and take advantage of other resources the county has to offer to continue his education.