



Ramond Nelson
[Ruh-MOND Nelson]
Lived Experience Leader, FosterClub
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ramond A Nelson was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to a single mother of three boys. Early on Ramond's Mother went through a series of mental health concerns that became unsafe for him and his two other brothers. This resulted in Ramond having to relocate several times as his mother was getting help. At one point Ramond had to take on being the man of the house for his younger brother as his older brother had left. Ramond experienced many challenges in his childhood: his mother's health, having a learning disability, not having a father present, and growing up in an unsafe environment. Ultimately Ramond entered the foster care system at the age of 13 and during this time of his life, he was on the road to self-destruction. Ramond started to realize the value in his life at the ages of 17 and 22. At 17, Ramond was in awe to learn about Trayvon Martin who was the same age as him being murdered maliciously; this sparked an interest in Ramond's life to follow social justice programs and black life matters events. At 22, Ramond was on the road to greatness but was missing a void in his life. Having been at the community college since he graduated high school Ramond took an opportunity to join a FosterClub; for the first time in his life, Ramond was with his fellow peers who looked and sounded like him, had been through similar trauma, and ultimately inspired him to pursue more in life. Ramond, 29, who now lives in Philadelphia, is a first-generation college student with an Associate in General Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from one of the top undergraduate schools in the country. Ramond is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity incorporated and has served on numerous organizations on and off-campus. Currently, Ramond is studying for his Master's Degree in Education with a focus on adult learning and organizational development.