

A turning point is what I would call the day I met "Mr. K." That's not a pseudonym to protect his identity; that's what everyone called him. He saw me looking through the chain-link fence while he and several others were playing basketball.



During a break he just walked over to me and introduced himself and said, "I saw the way your eyes lit up when the ball went through the hoop. How'd you like to be able to do that just about every time?" He laughed and said, "No, I don't mean light up your eyes, I mean get the ball in the basket. Come on in, I'll show you." Two years later after spending many hours on and off the court with Mr. K, I was selected to be a high school All-American. Only then did I tell him that his court side invitation prevented me from going through with my plan to rob a convenience store. I would've wound up in a very different court.

- M.J. 51 year-old Retired Professional Women's Basketball Player