



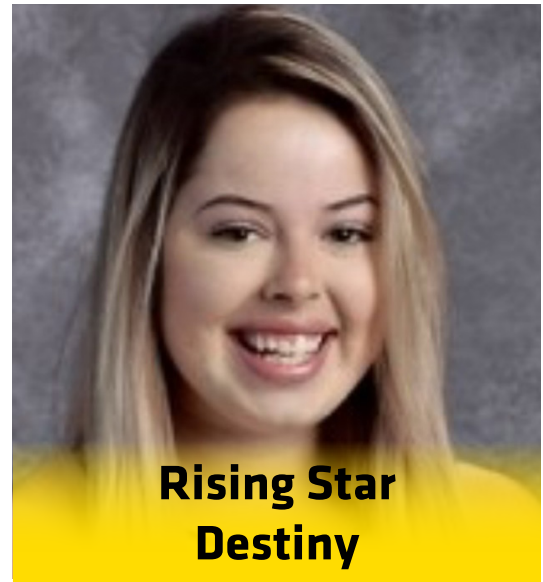
**Outstanding Alum  
Jonathan Nehring**

**Jonathan Nehring** participated in Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP from 2005-2007. This experience kept him from being sidetracked by the many distractions within the foster care system and focused on his goal of a secondary education.

Because of KKGU resources, Jonathan was able to attend the University of Kansas as a first generation student and successfully complete his undergraduate degrees in accounting and finance.

Jonathan subsequently obtained his juris doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law. He currently resides in New York City where he advises on tax law matters for Macquarie Bank.

According to Jonathan, “KKGU provides the foundation and guidance for those underserved populations which have not been given this foundation. This foundation allows young people to focus on schooling and career development with the financial certainty that would have otherwise been their sole focus. I am extremely grateful KKGU was there to provide me with this foundation which I have benefitted from as I work to build upon it every day.”



**Rising Star  
Destiny**

**Destiny** became part of Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP in August 2014. Destiny has always been a very outgoing person and has made the best of her situation. She has been fortunate that her placements have all been fairly long-term. She is living with a family who adopted one of her younger siblings. She is currently in the adoption process.

Destiny is in the eleventh grade and has a 3.5 grade point average. She has taken IB, AP and honors classes and is involved in several clubs including Key Club, Christians on Campus and Sign Language Club. Destiny enjoys volunteering in her community as well. She has over 30 community service hours for First Call for Help. She volunteers doing sign language interpreting and is only a few months shy of becoming a legal sign interpreter. This accomplishment will make her tri-lingual.

Destiny believes that GEAR UP has helped her to evaluate her college decisions. She feels that with the help of GEAR UP she will be able to attend the college of her choice and feels that GEAR UP has helped her see that she is not limited by the “foster kid standards” in people’s minds.

Destiny has attended many GEAR UP events, campus visits, summer programming and volunteering activities. She hopes to study forensic science in college and would love to work in the blood splatter analysis field of forensics.