

***“Our lives aren’t determined by what happens to us,  
but by how we react to what happens.”***

My experience at Charm School was one of a kind. I finally discovered the real Teresa, the one that was hiding in her shadow her whole life. With the help of Dr. Donna E. Corbett, Officer Everett, and RPD I was able to become, “the best of the best of the best.” If it weren’t for these people who spent their time on me, I wouldn’t be who I am now.

Before Charm School, I did not know about being, “positive, polished and professional,” or setting a table and most importantly how to forgive and forget. I would always feel as if I had to act or dress a certain way to fit in with certain people or groups. I always felt down, lonely and lost, I used to think that I was just a waste of time, that there was no purpose for me to even be alive because of my past that has haunted me for a long time.

This program totally transformed me and the way in which I think. I will never forget what Dr. Corbett once told me,

“Our lives aren’t determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life, a “positive” attitude causes a chain reaction of “positive thoughts, events and outcomes.”

It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results.” With that said, she made me realize that nothing from my past should be a barrier in my present life, that I am capable of overcoming any challenges and that nothing should stop me on my way to success.

If every girl had the opportunity of going to Charm School, I would encourage them to do so because they will not only enjoy the program, but they will also discover the “pearl that’s been hiding in a shell” for a long period of time.



Teresa Basaves, Center