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## Home Ties Success: Michael

One of Home Ties' residents stayed at Home Ties for nearly all of 2005-2006. Michael came to Home Ties with a litany of problems and a ton of attitude. At the beginning, he had little love of the staff or the rules at Home Ties. When he did do all his chores and homework, he did it to receive his reward – usually an outing with the staff and other youth who followed the rules. However, over the year he began to do the right thing more often than he chose to do the wrong thing. By the end of the year, he formed a bond with the Home Ties staff and began to trust them. One day he confided to the staff that he chose to do the right thing solely because it was the right thing to do. Eventually, Michael was moved to a foster care placement where he is doing very well. He phones the Home Ties staff every week or so to check in with them and to let them know how he is doing. He admits that it is harder to stay on the right track without the structure of Home Ties, but he said he learned invaluable lessons that he uses every day and that he intends to use throughout his life. And life for Michael is definitely looking a lot more positive.

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