

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
HANCOCK COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: PROJECT GRADUATION**

Saul was a student who never stood out. He was interested in playing video games more than school. He came to class and kept his head down to not be noticed and to have to put the least amount of effort into school. He was extremely smart and knew how to use that for his advantage to just get by. He did not have a lot of friends, mostly just individuals he played video games with and some of those were half way across the country who he had met through Xbox live. He just did not really connect with students at his high school; however Saul had never really given them a chance either. His cousin has always volunteered for Project Graduation and began encouraging him and his parents to come to the fantastic event. Saul was reluctant to attend this event but the Youth Service Center had sent out a list of prizes and many video game related items were being given away which he thought he might have a chance to win. The night of the event he and his parents went to the YMCA to Project Graduation. The coordinator was so excited not only because his parents came to volunteer but because Saul was there. She had never seen him want to come to any sort of school event before. Saul began playing games with his fellow graduates. He played basketball, bingo, and even ping pong! He was having an absolute blast and many of those students he had never spoken to were laughing and cutting up with him. When it came time for prizes, all the seniors and their guest lined the large room and anxiously waited for their names to be drawn. The names were shuffled in the hat and the first name was drawn and it was Saul! He was overwhelmed with joy! He was able to pick any prize and he chose the Xbox One! The coordinator really thought he was going to cry. The whole night was a complete success for Saul. That night, he made friends which now he actually goes and does stuff with instead of only setting at home. Project Graduation did something other than just give a prize to Saul, it gave him a life. His mom told the Youth Service Center Coordinator that she was so happy they attended the event and it did help her son to live his life away from just a screen!

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Project Graduation** can:

- Purchase prizes
- Purchase food and drinks
- Assist with the cost of the rental fee for the Owensboro YMCA
- Purchase supplies such as photo booth supplies or games which students can play throughout the night

