



## BRANDON'S VENTURE - E.X.P.R.E.S.S.I.O.N.S.



Brandon in class with three of his students.

### HIS IDEA

- Teach and train students how to express themselves through poetry and photography
- Offering a free program for students to learn the power of art as a tool to express themselves

### HIS IMPACT

- Helped over 700 children connect and discover their inner creativity and passions

Brandon was born ninety percent deaf and underwent multiple surgeries to restore his hearing. As a result, Brandon developed a speech impediment that made him very apprehensive to speak to others. When he was younger, he did not engage himself in after school activities because he was afraid and embarrassed of his speech. Despite this obstacle, he learned to express himself with clarity through poetry and photography. After attending a Youth Venture meeting that was geared towards creating his own social venture, Brandon knew exactly what he wanted to do to help others overcome similar road blocks to his. He created a proposal, put together a budget, and was soon given a grant which led to the launch of "E.X.P.R.E.S.S.I.O.N.S".

The young people in Sunset Park, Brooklyn had no artistic outlets until Brandon launched E.X.P.R.E.S.S.I.O.N.S. which teaches young children how to express themselves through art. Brandon holds weekly after school classes at a local elementary school, where students learn photography, poetry basics, and hear guest lectures from professionals in the field. He also teaches a class devoted to helping young people resolve and depict conflicts through photography.

Brandon has now become a champion in his field as well as an excellent mentor and role model to the younger people in his community.

**“THIS ISN'T something they have to grade, this THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THEY have to worry about handing in on time. I TEACH IT TO THEM TO USE FOR THEMSELVES.”**

