

Testimony of Kurn Hattin Survivor Mystik Ashe

I remember over a year ago, I mentioned how I wished Kurn Hattin Homes would shut down, and I still stand by that to this day. People who also attended that school and managed to have a "good experience" came and attacked me for saying that and wanted me to stop complaining or "making up lies."

I was bullied for years at that school and constantly put down by the adults. My mental health went down the drain, my grades went down the drain, and the adults hid everything from my mom. I have scars on my wrists from when I used to cut, and the school could've cared less about just how much I was suffering. I had opportunities that could've been for me and opened up paths for me handed to students who were less qualified for it and often got back seated or ignored in multiple ways.

The bullying was relentless, and when I tried to defend myself, I would be the one getting in trouble instead. When I looked into high schools, I was constantly put down by the staff and told that I would never amount to anything those schools would want. I watched them put their hands on the children when the children became "too much." The school is meant to care for children that are special. They apparently have the "training" for it, but they didn't in any way. I also heard about counselors getting touchy with the boys and girls and thought it was just a rumor when it apparently wasn't. The school was all around, just problematic and detrimental to my mental well-being, and i don't care if i get attacked that school can burn to the ground for all I care.

I was told at Kurn Hattin by Family Outreach Coordinator, Tenielle Stone, and my guidance counselor at Monadnock High School that schools wouldn't accept people with my grades, and I probably wouldn't get far since I wasn't an A-grade student. Many adults at KHH and Monadnock put me down and didn't believe in me, while very few did. I proved them wrong.

I got the highest scores for my freshman English exams out of the class before leaving my sophomore year. I took my HiSet and passed with very good scores (besides math, which I struggled with). I am now in college and have A grades for 3 classes i have taken so far with outstanding praise from my professors and I'm going for an English and Psych major while also writing stories that people love in my free time. I'm also working with someone from Yale University to see about transferring at some point in the future if i keep my grades the way they are.

This upcoming fall semester i am taking Psychology 101 Honors, Introduction to Literary Theory, and British Lit 1: Beginning to 1700s. Never let somebody tell you you can't. You may not thrive in one place like you may in another, or you might need time for personal growth. Do things at your own pace; nobody knows you like you do. The person that really needs to believe in you is you. People in my life wonder why i have a hard time getting over Kurn Hattin Homes, and I'll tell you why. When i was 9 years old and on March 19th i started attending the residential boarding school

of Kurn Hattin Homes and i kid you not a month in I got sick and when me and some of my other cottage mates told the house parent i was sick i got in trouble for "waking my cottagemates" when they woke up on their own.

When i moved out of Hubbard cottage and went to Maysilles Cottage, the bullying began. I had suffered severe bullying being hit, lied about to get in trouble, called horrible things, told to kill myself, being made fun of for how i looked, people stealing and vandalizing my stuff. I told adult after adults, and they either did nothing or made the situation worse. I faced this for years and remember breaking down to my mom, begging her to get me out of that school. I was scolded for defending myself, and when i fought back, i was always the one in trouble.

I remember going to Milton Hershey for choir and asking Tenielle how i could go to this school and she said "i highly doubt they would accept a student such as yourself" with a rude tone so i gave up on that idea. When i was in Warner, my 8th grade year, the house parent called Ms. Chandler cut up some watermelon and made a joke, saying, "The biggest piece is for Mystik since she eats so much," despite knowing i had an eating disorder at the time. I began to harm myself by cutting my wrists, and when the adults found out about it, i was scolded for that, too.

Whenever i got comfortable with a counselor and started to tell them how i felt, they always brought up how i was being dramatic and needed to just keep quiet and stop spreading lies. People said i would cry and miss that place but i didn't and i left immediately after graduation and to this day i keep getting cards from them or mail asking for donations and every time i see Kurn Hattin Homes it reminds me just what i went through and i end up having a mental breakdown. My mom regrets sending me to that school, and when she tried to find out about the bullying, i endured she couldn't find anything cause none of the adults, despite being aware, would tell her anything. I don't care if I'm an alumni to that school. i want nothing to do with it ever again. That place was hell on earth for me, and I'm grateful I'm out of there.