The Clubhouse Network
WHERE TECHNOLOGY MEETS IMAGINATION

RE@CH FORWARD STORY:
New Orleans Public Library, Louisiana USA

Andrea Sullivan

Her given name is Israel Sullivan, but she goes by her chosen name, Andrea. She was born on September 9, 2006, a year after Hurricane Katrina, in a small hospital on the Texarkana border. She has four siblings, Tori, Lonnie, Illya, and Ishameal. She didn't get the chance to really know her mom because she grew up with her grandmother. Sadly, her mother passed away when she was 12. After that, she leaned on her older siblings for guidance and support.

That same year, she became a member of the Best Buy Teen Tech Center and Clubhouse at the New Orleans Public Library. Walking in for the first time, she felt excited about all the new opportunities waiting for her, but she was also nervous about meeting new people. Dance helped her through those fears. She had always loved dancing, cheer, and movement, and at the Teen Tech Center I could finally express that side of herself without judgment. The center quickly became her safe space, a place where she has always felt like she belongs.

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One of her favorite memories from the center was creating **her RE@CH winning photograph in 2022**. The photoshoot took place outside the Main Library, where a huge mural covers the wall. The Assistant Coordinator snapped photo after photo while Andrea incorporated all the dance and tumbling moves that she knew. Later, Andrea learned how to edit the pictures using Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. When she was encouraged to submit one of the photos to the festival, she didn't think much of it at first. She never imagined it would not only be a finalist, but actually win in its respective category!

"This opportunity helped boost my confidence and meet new people. Winning that photo competition wasn't just a moment--it was a turning point. The lens I once held to capture the world suddenly became the lens through which I saw my future. The Best Buy Teen Tech Center didn't just give me tools--it gave me purpose. From self-doubt to self-expression, I found my voice in a single snapshot. And now? I'm not just taking pictures. I'm making moves, telling stories, and shaping a future that once felt out of reach. This is only the beginning." - *Andrea Sullivan, clubhouse youth member*

For more information about the Best Buy Teen Tech Center and Clubhouse at the New Orleans Public Library in Louisiana, please visit their site here.

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