I was thinking about how people were towards me before I became a youth advocate.

And?

People weren't nice to me. They talked bad about me and acted like it was a disease. Now I'm suddenly this great kid that they are proud to have in their community. I don't get it!

So, you've got some resentment?

Absolutely!

Oh, it's nothing, Mom.

There's obviously something. Let it out!
People make judgments. It's wrong, but the only way to get around what people think is to prove yourself, which you have done.

What? You mean I proved to become a token of their community glory.

No, you proved to be a motivated, caring, and delightful young man. You give people hope. That's what the community thrives on.

Maybe you're right, but it still hurts.

It does hurt, but you have to realize that when people don't understand things they fear and often judge.

But you stuck yourself out there and made them understand. I'll bet that they'll be more careful on what they judge for now on, and so should you.

Me, judge!

You're so right, mom. I never thought of it that way.

You! They gave you a second chance, so it's only fair that you let go of your resentment and give them the same privilege.
Lately I've noticed that there is a lack of essential commodities for youth in town such as food, shelter, and clothing.

That's true, Johnny. There are a lot of homeless youth in our community and not enough resources. Sometimes it feels like people don't care.

It's not that people don't care; it's that they aren't sure how to take the initiative, and there may be some fear and shame.

People fear me, daws!

That's because you're a monstrous super power, Stu.

I agree. We need to show concern in the community and get people involved...

How do we do that, Johnny?

A community event!
A relay for youth! Sort of like a relay for life. People will make donations for it, and also pay a small fee to race, which will be a good step to support youth needs.

That's a good idea but will the city go along with it?

I can't tell you, but we have to take steps and find out who to talk to and who will help organize it.

Yeah, first we'll have to talk to the mayor and the city council.

Yeah, and we should go to the community team for support. They have good connections.

And if they approve we'll go to local businesses to get sponsors.

We could even get other community groups to help out.

Mister Mayor, here we come, daaaawg!

But let's not get too ahead of ourselves, first things first...

And we don't just have to have a relay. We could have bake sales, a canned food drive, and things like that.
THE MED CABINET

How many more posters do we need to make, Johnny?

Maybe 3 or 4 more.

Ouch!

Are you all right, Brian?

Yeah, it's just a paper-cut. It's deep, though. Can I have a band-aid, Stu?

Stu!

Band-aid's are in the top drawer of the bathroom sink, dawg.

What, dawg? You need a band-aid for a paper-cut? Ha ha!

Maybe you should be a bit more understanding, Stu.
LISTEN, DAWG! I CUT MY THUMB OFF WITH A HATCHET LAST SUMMER. I JUST HELD THE THUMB BACK ON UNTIL IT HEALED ITSELF. NO BIG DEAL.

NO, YOU DIDN'T!

I WOULD HAVE IF MY MOM WOULD HAVE LET ME USE THE HATCHET, DAWG!

CRASH!

B O U N C E !

B O U N C E !

B O U N C E !

THREE!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE, DAWG?

SORRY, STU. YOUR MEDS FELL OUT OF THE CABINET.

IT'S OKAY TO BE SENSITIVE ABOUT YOUR MEDS, STU. I AM ABOUT MINE, BUT HE DIDN'T MEAN IT. CALM DOWN!

I TOLD YOU THE TOP DRAWER, DAWG! BUT NO, YOU GOTTA SNOOP AROUND IN A MAN'S BUSSINESS.

I'M DONE WITH BOTH OF YOU AND THE GROUP! GET OUT OF MY HOUSE, DAWG!

TO BE CONTINUED