

ANTWON'S LIFE

Antwon Mitchell profiled by
Jimmy Alexis & Daniel Trejos

Antwon Mitchell is thirty nine years old. He was born and raised in Los Angeles. He has lived all his life in Los Angeles—in the 80s his family moved from the East Side of South Central to the West, and he has ended up calling South Central his home to this day. According to the article, "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," it talks about how in the years 1910 to 1970 many people moved from West to East due to violence.

Antwon said that when he was young, a soda was worth \$0.25 cents and now a soda is worth \$1.00 up to \$2.50, gasoline is very expensive before it was worth \$3.00 and now up to \$5.00 or \$6.00 dollars—over time the price of everything has gone up.

Antwon's observations correspond to what the Inflation Calculator states: "Before prices weren't that expensive, now everything costs double."

Antwon's community was very scandalous and there were many gangs, so young people only had two paths: study or join the gang, and since there were not enough opportunities in the schools, many young people decided to join the gangs, so that made it strict. He studied at Crenshaw High School, he said that there were not many opportunities, the economic situation was difficult. With time everything has changed, now the students have better schools, better food and well dressed.

Antwon is a single father who takes care of his children by himself, and he is now working so that his children can have a better future than him now that there's more opportunities for kids to study: "After knowing how it feels to not have a good education I want to give my kids to have what I didn't have." According to "Census Reporter" only half of all people were able to graduate here in South Central, demonstrating there were very few opportunities.

Antwon also said that he likes to ride his motorcycle, go to the beach and exercise. Today, Antwon still feels hopeful for the future: "Even in the midst of my difficulties, I feel proud of my achievements, such as taking care of my children alone without my partner by my side, and how to get my motorcycle and truck license which I'm doing to show myself and other people that we can do everything we propose, everything is just in the mind."

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Daniel Trejos



My name is Daniel Trejos. I am 18 years old. I am a student at Horace Mann UCLA Community School. My mother came to South Central in 2014 and my sister and I arrived in 2016. I have been in South Central for 7 years. Something that caught my attention was that Antwon spoke of the lack of opportunities that there were since there were

many children looking for an opportunity and it was only a small percentage. Another thing that caught my attention was that at that time everything was cheaper, for example, what was worth \$0.25 cents is now worth about \$2.50 or more. I

hope South Central or LA is a very beautiful city with no homeless or trash on the streets. I would like the government to put more apartments so that there is no lack of housing. My plans for the summer are to work and enjoy as much as I can because I'm at an age where you only live once in a lifetime and then be ready for college.
