

John VanNoller

John VanNoller was introduced to Boys & Girls Harbor his freshman year of high school through a friend and former Harbor resident. "A friend of mine had lived at the Harbor when he was about five," John said. "He would go back there on weekends to play basketball and I started going with him."

In 1991, during John's junior year of high school, he became a resident at the Harbor. "I had been raised in a broken home," he said. "There wasn't a lot of love or structure or discipline. I got all of that as soon as I moved to the Harbor. I felt welcomed and a part of the family from the instant I arrived."

The group functioned like most traditional families, something John said he had never experienced. "We had bed times and wake-up times and sit-down family dinners," John said. "We instantly became a family and my roommates became more like my brothers. I still have weekly or monthly phone calls with four of them."

At the Harbor, John says he learned discipline and respect. "In high school, I would skip school or say I was sick 30 or 40 times a year," he said. "I couldn't do that at Harbor. Missing school meant missing after school activities. By my senior year, I was making good grades and not missing class."

After graduating from La Porte High School, John attended Blinn Junior College before enlisting in the United States Army where he served for seven years. Today, John works for RE/MAX Cinco Ranch in Katy where he resides with his wife and three children.

John was recognized as the "Alumni Honoree" at Boys and Girls Harbor's annual Good Skipper Celebration in October 2011. "Without the Harbor, there is no way I would be where I am today," he said. "I am extremely grateful for the Harbor and the path my life took because of them." In February 2014 John was elected to serve on the Harbor's Board of Directors.

