

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



LeRoy Alexander ([00:01](#)):

Paul fleas has a lot to do with my growth because I started volunteering there and I started seeing that it's not always about me. Sometimes you got to put your problems to the side to help the next person.

LeRoy Alexander ([00:19](#)):

My name is LeRoy Alexander. I live at 1129 Ward Street. I've been living in south Baltimore for at least 37 years or more. My story is... It's a story of man... I have been basically homeless. I'm a recovering addict. I have almost over three years clean and it'd been a struggle. And I say that for this reason, because I was a drug addict that ran around the streets of south Baltimore, getting high every day. I've been through the gutter... Went from the bottom. I was dirty, I was stinking, I had socks on that I had on for a week that were so hard that if you take them off, they were still standing in the same direction. I have eaten candy off the ground. I have seen people put sodas down, they get on a bus, and I went and drunk it. I've ate food out of the trashcan.

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).

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LeRoy Alexander ([01:13](#)):

And I wouldn't trade it in for anything because it made me the person that I am today. It made me stronger. It made me understand that the only thing that you're going to get out of life is what you put into life. And I fought hard to stay away from the negativity, the drugs, the desire to even sell or use or be around the situation, period. And if what I tell y'all can help just one of y'all, then I feel good because I know that someone actually heard what I was saying and took it to heart.

Aaron Henkin ([01:51](#)):

Tell me a little bit more about the story of your daughter. She was born and you guys were in a place where you couldn't have custody. What happened?

LeRoy Alexander ([01:57](#)):

Yes. This is the situation, my daughter. At the time when my daughter was born, she was born addicted to heroin because my wife was a heroin addict at the time. So when she was born, we knew that we couldn't take care of her and give her what she rightfully needed. So after she got detoxed, from there, the department of DSS... We asked them for help. So they brought a lady into our life who took our daughter from three months old and raised her basically as her own child. But she never denied the fact of who her mother and her father was. She never tried to hide that from her. She told her these things. So... And I'll say it, I love Ms. Tammy to death for it because that's the lady who helped raise our daughter. She came into our life at a time where we knew that we could not give our daughter what she really needed or what she wanted out of life.

Aaron Henkin ([02:52](#)):

So you get to see your... Tell me your daughter's name.

LeRoy Alexander ([02:55](#)):

Rebecca.

Aaron Henkin ([02:57](#)):

You get to see Rebecca on Sundays.

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