Working

 “If you want anything in this life then you need to work for it”. This simple phrase has always stuck with me throughout my childhood and to this day. Something that I have heard on repeat in my life and I have followed religiously. Through my life I have always been working. Though the jobs may have changed from working on the harvest crew in the middle of summer in the 90+ degree weather to actually getting an “official” job at a local Mexican restaurant bussing and hosting tables and then adding on to that working at a KOA Campground eventually adding a third at a local BBQ restaurant waiting tables all at the same time. By the time I was 16 I have made easily over $10,000. Now I know this may not seem like it is all that much or that significant but, in my generation, and in my life, this was the turning point that made me realize that I was actually making a life for myself by being able to afford the things I like and enjoy doing without my parents help financially. Before this moment I had already been working for about a year at two separate jobs. Between these two I was working six days a week and never stopped to even think about something differently with my time. By now, working the three different jobs for two different employers, bussing tables, working outside, building and repairing new projects on the campground and waiting tables aren’t just a part of my life, but simply my entire life, my escape.

 You may be wondering how I was able to keep a social life, or how I was able to keep up in school. Simply put, I worked harder than ever before. In life nothing is free, and you have to make sacrifices for the bigger picture in our life and for me this was working. Having a social life to me meant meeting and working with new people that I have never met before in my life. I was focused on expanding outside of my comfort zone and exploring new things that this world had to offer little by little. So no, I did not have a social life and no I did not play sports for the school and no, I was never available to go to Saturday or Friday night football games with my friends. At the same time, I had a priority behind working, which was school. I know school is important and I need it to go places, do things, and be able to take care of the people I find valuable in my life. At this point I had to make a choice and choose between social interaction outside of work or my friends at school that I had soon grown away from because I was never able to hang out with them or spend time with them. They did not understand what I was going through and because of this difference I soon found myself alone outside of work, waiting for my generation to catch up to the point I had made it to, which I see, some still haven’t. Working gave me a purpose in my life and to this day I find it motivating me to do better, to be better than I was before. I had finally found a place where I could be myself and be comfortable with the people around me. The people that I worked with would comfort me when I needed it and gave me criticism when I deserved it. I was not afraid to speak my mind with the people that I had grown so close to, I can trust the people I work with and they would trust me. I found my home when I was never home. I enjoyed the long nights working until 11:30 pm over the summer and into the school year with school the next day. I enjoyed having a place to be and being able to have people know they can count on me. To this day I am a valued member of the team and family that we have built at each one of my jobs. I was finally able to afford and pay for the things that I enjoy doing. This meant buying my first vehicle and paying it off in less amount of time than predicted. I was always taught by my mom that saving money is one of the most important things to do in life and to do this, I needed to get rid of the payment so I kept working until it was all done. Even during paying for my truck and after I had saved enough spare money to modify it to my liking such as a new lift kit, wheels, tires, lights, everything I needed to make it the way I wanted to seemingly give me joy.