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Now its time for tonight's "Real America."

It's not often that you find a place where the sole mission is to give people a second chance in life. That's the goal of Project Renewal. And tonight we take an inside look.

Hidden in the basement of a New York City building lies a commercial kitchen. Chef Anthony O'Connor is in charge here. He teaches students how to cook, how to serve, and most importantly, how to believe in themselves.

"They're with me for 12 weeks. And then they go on to an internship for 12 weeks. We do something called a job search. We help them try to find a job. You know, a lot of them are actually hired on the internship. The idea of getting an actual job is a first for many of the students here at Project Renewal. You see most of them are used to getting tossed aside, called worthless."

But here you're more likely to see guys tossing peppers.

"You're going to end up in two places, you know what I mean? Either dead or in jail. It's not the same, like how it used to be. You know what I mean? You watch movies like American Gangster that just recently came out. Like nobody is making \$250 million off of the streets no more. Like that idea is played out."

The Project Renewal idea is pretty simple. Give people a second chance. Students get into the free program after they've gone through rehab or many times when they get out of jail.

That's how Andre landed here.

Today, he's a success story. He completed the cooking program and now works as a prep cook for his internship. He came back to talk to the new crop of students, saying, "You know, while you're running the street, selling drugs, robbing, doing anything to get money. Eventually, you know, I'm 29 years old and I've been doing it for a long time. And it just hit me like I'm getting older, not younger. I don't want to do this the rest of my life. So, you know, what do I have to fall back on? So I have to do something with my life. You know?"

And that's exactly what Andre is doing. Today, he's taking time out from his internship and giving hope to the future graduates of the program, one of whom said, "You know, if you just take a look at him, I know he's from my environment. I hope I can follow his example and prove to everybody that I never thought I would be a role model. Never.

When I wake up in the morning, its like I got something to look forward to. I've got a career. I know it is hard work. I like doing it. And I look forward to doing it. And it's like now I just thank god for it. Turns out at Project Renewal, that simple old adage still holds true. Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you just may feed him for life."

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