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Former LaGrange Housing Authority resident Dezirea Skye overcomes being a victim of gun violence on her last day of high school to become a successful business owner at 23 years old.

The City of LaGrange Housing Authority - We are pleased to showcase a former resident, Dezirea Skye from The Phoenix (formerly Benjamin Harvey Hill Apartments) in LaGrange, Ga. Dezirea was supposed to be celebrating one of the most incredible milestones of her life after crossing the stage at her high school graduation. Little did she know shortly afterward, going to a graduation party as most kids do. After just arriving, she would be sitting in a car to be struck by a stray bullet that entered her shoulder and continued to travel, hitting her in her face, breaking her jaw in two places.

After a stint in the hospital and two surgeries to repair her jaw, Dezirea had to have her mouth wired shut for months for the healing to occur. This was a constant reminder of the terrible events of that night. She was afraid to go out in public and be around large crowds and became a recluse. She spent most of her time with her grandparents as she felt this was the safest place to be. Until one day, she decided to take back control of her life and pursue her dreams, taking the steps of becoming the owner of her own company. After working as a receptionist for an insurance agency for a few years. She started studying to obtain her license to sell insurance. Well, after many long days and nights of studying and working as an apprentice, she passed the exam, then shortly after, AMTECH INSURANCE GROUP was born.

Chad Cooper, Director of Development and Marketing, added, "This was a beautiful story that not only residents of Housing Authorities needed to hear but the world. To overcome such an experience at such a young age is amazing. Sometimes it takes people decades to even began the process of healing."

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