

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Eddie Rivera

Date 6 November 2025

Medium born digital audio file

Description Audio file of interview with Eddie Rivera. He was interviewed by Bethzy Mejia on November 6, 2025 in Middletown, Connecticut. Eddie Rivera was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History's Community History Project discussing moments of change in his life. Eddie Rivera was Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Connecticut. Eddie faced his first major life change when his mother left his father due to drug abuse and moved their family to the U.S., which was a shift that he recalls as a moment of “culture shock,” since neither of them spoke English at the time. As a teenager, he struggled with depression and addiction, which led him down a path of crime and eventually incarceration. The turning point came when his mother showed him a picture of his newborn daughter and urged him to change before losing everything. “That really hit me,” he said, describing it as the moment he began rethinking his life. After serving time in jail, Eddie committed to transformation, first through steady work, then through creative passion. He channeled his talents in barbering, art, and hip-hop into entrepreneurship, later opening a barbershop that also serves children with autism. “Sometimes I slept in my car,” he recalled, “but I didn’ t quit.” His inspiration now comes from motivational figures like Tony Robbins and Les Brown, whose teachings helped him find stability and purpose. Today, Eddie is a business owner, artist, and

Basic Detail Report

community mentor who delivers talks to youth, emphasizing that change is

always possible. As he puts it, “You can go through hell and still come back out

of it a great person... change is possible.”

Dimensions Duration: 25 Minutes, 41 Seconds