

You might have seen him on White Water Summer, Mac and Me, or Steel Magnolias. You might even remember him as Douglas Pembroke from Season 1 of Charles In Charge. These days, however, Jonathan Ward is making a name for himself in the auto restoration field. Specializing in Toyota Land Cruisers, Ward has a repair and restoration dealership in Van Nuys that he co-owns with his wife.



He recently visited PDC South Facility to explain his business and how he got started. He was very active in Hollywood at the time that he started developing a different creative passion and vision. After seeing how some celebrities, that were a little older and more seasoned than he, were forced to deal with the public and the paparazzi, he decided he wanted out of the game. He had a little cash and a couple credit cards. He put all his time, money and energy into his new business and soon had Mr. Toyota himself at the doorstep.



His lecture was very motivating to the inmates who were quite vocal about their appreciation. After the lecture, they were like kids in a candy shop. Mr. Ward brought in one of his restored FJ40 Models for them to look at. He showed them the alterations and modifications that he made to the vehicle. The inmates were encouraged to actively pursue their talents and follow their visions.

Another important thing that Jonathan did for them was let them know that there was hope after incarceration. He advised them that he has no problem hiring people who have been part of the jail system before and that he bases his judgment of an individual on a firm handshake and eye contact.

We here at South Facility appreciate the time Mr. Ward took out of his busy schedule to come and share his talents. He is always welcome here, and we wish him a speedy return, as a guest speaker that is.

