Charlie T. and a Quartet of Vignettes

I’ve referenced the beginning of my career as a Children’s Therapist/Caseworker in the last few liner notes. I posted and shared essays about that work and how it links to my present. Today I’ve posted four essays from my memoir, written about 5 years ago that present a picture of my work with a young adolescent at the beginning of my career. Whereas the previous essays drew a picture of my work with adolescents using the environment of a basketball court and sports, my work with Charlie was different. He wasn’t athletic, had no interest in playing sports, had a family he had been ripped away from and learned how to survive in a harsh, oppressive environment. He taught me some important lessons focused around the different ways kids could be resilient and what family strengths were all about. When I was writing these essays, I remember walking through our building and picturing a middle-aged Charlie as one of our Maintenance guys. Most recently, when I’ve watched, read and listened about what ICE has done with their policy of forcibly separating children from their families at the border and the devastating outcomes of that policy, I reflect “God, this is what happened to Charlie, but with a different outcome. I got him home.”