

PROMISING PRACTICES

Improving the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood

EARLY PREPARATION

The Casey Family Program

Ruth Massinga, Chief Executive Officer
1300 Dexter Avenue, N. Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98109
Tel (206) 282-7300
Fax (206) 282-3555
www.casey.org

The Casey Family Program, established in 1966, focuses on supporting the development of self-sufficient adults as a core of its work in providing planned, long term family foster care. Over the years Casey has developed effective assessment tools (Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment) and approaches to help young people gain important life skills, work skills and preparation for secondary and vocational education.

Green Chimney's Children's Services -Life

Skills Preparation for Younger Children
Dr. Gerald Mallon, Assoc. Executive Director
Green Chimney's Children's Services
New York, NY 10010
Tel (212) 677-7288

This life-skills curriculum and training guide was developed in order to provide life skills preparation for younger children in out-of-home care. The curriculum provides extensive assessment, training and evaluation materials for staff, as well as exercises for real-life practice of life skills.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION/ CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Orphan Foundation of America

Eileen McCaffrey, Executive Director
380 Maple Avenue West
Vienna, VA 22180
Tel (703) 281-4226

The Orphan Foundation has been providing college scholarships to older youth in foster care and those who have left care. In addition to receiving scholarships, youth have the opportunity to participate in a summer leadership program in which they come to Washington and meet legislators, learn about the Child Welfare system at the national level, and come together to share their experiences and ideas.

State of Texas Scholarship Program for Foster Youth

Janet Luft, Independent Living Coordinator
Texas Department of Protective and
Regulatory Services
PO Box 149030, MCB-588
Austin, TX 78714
Tel (512) 438-5442

The State of Texas has set an example for the nation by passing legislation which allows all of Texas' foster youth to pursue post secondary education at any state institution at no cost. This effort is supported by a statewide Youth Advisory Board, which has written letters to all other states urging them to establish similar programs.

**POST SECONDARY EDUCATION/
CAREER DEVELOPMENT cont.**

**UPS School-to-Career Partnership for
Maryland Youth in Foster Care**

Vince Griffith, Project Director
Living Classrooms Foundation
802 South Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
Tel (410) 685-0295
Fax (410) 752-8433

The School-to-Career partnership involves UPS, DC Metro Region, Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Living Classrooms Foundation to provide youth emancipating from care with part-time jobs, post-secondary educational opportunities and support services. The Living Classrooms Foundation has been recognized by President Clinton and others for innovative programs for at-risk youth.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

**National Endowment for Financial
Education (NEFE)**

Brent A. Neiser, CFP
Director of Collaborative Programs
4695 South Monaco Street
Denver, CO 80237
Tel (303) 220-1200

With support from the Child Welfare League of America, NEFE is writing and disseminating financial planning guides to help prepare youth and young adults in foster care for independent living. The endowment has also begun work on the development of materials for foster families and case workers.

A PLACE TO LIVE

Lighthouse Youth Services

Mark Kroner, Director
1527 Madison Road, 3rd Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45206
Tel (513) 475-5680

Lighthouse Youth Services was a pioneer in the implementation of scattered site apartment independent living services. As they learn to become self sufficient, foster youth as young as 15 ½ are able to live in their own apartment, with intensive support and assistance available 24 hours a day. Lighthouse also sponsors independent living homes supervised by live-in mentors. Mark Kroner, the director of IL programs, has assisted a number of other programs with written information, on-site training and personal consultations.

**United Friends of the Children
Bridges**

Sandra Rudnick, Chariman
5721 West Slauson Avenue, Suite 120
Culver City, CA 90230
Tel (310) 338-3646
Fax (310) 215-8220
ufcbridges@aol.com

The Bridges to Independence program provides transitional housing with support services, employment preparation and placement assistance to youth who have emancipated from the foster care system in Los Angeles County. The goal of the program is to improve outcomes for the approximately 1,000 young people who emancipate each year. Partners in its efforts include the Los Angeles DCFS, Community Development Commission, Covenant House, Salvation Army, the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles Housing Department.

YOUTH VOICES/ADVOCACY

California Youth Connection

Janet Knipe, Statewide Coordinator
114 Sansome Street, #921
San Francisco, CA 94101
Tel (415) 398-9036

CYC is a statewide advocacy, support and education organization of, and for, California's foster youth. CYC provides opportunities for foster youth, and former foster youth, ages 14 to 24 to participate in monthly meetings for the purpose of educating themselves about the foster care system, accessing community resources, and becoming agents of positive change in the system. CYC members travel regularly to Sacramento, where they educate state legislators about the needs of foster youth and of the system that serves them.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS PROJECT

Improving the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood Promising Practices

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION

I. EARLY (ONGOING) PREPARATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Social Services
Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood (PAYA) Program
Maureen Fallon
Independent Living Coordinator
Massachusetts Dept. of Social Services
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210
Tel. (617) 748-2231

PAYA provides training for foster parents and group care providers, and require that all youth in care receive training in the PAYA modules beginning at age 14 and continuing through emancipation, if possible. PAYA consists of five training modules covering areas of life skills including money, food and home management, personal care, health safety and decision making, education, job seeking and job maintenance, housing, transportation, community resources, and a young parent's guide. Each module includes an assessment, skill plan and activity workbook.

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www.casey.org

The Casey Family Program, established in 1966, focuses on supporting the development of self-sufficient adults as a core of its work in providing planned, long-term family foster care. Over the years Casey has developed effective assessment tools (*Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment*) and approaches to help young people gain important life skills, work skills and preparation for secondary and vocational education. Symbolic of the Program's work are the *Self-Sufficiency Initiative*, developed by the Tucson Division, and the *Preparation of Youth for Employment (PYE)* program designed by the Walnut Creek Division.

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM**DESCRIPTION****I. EARLY (ONGOING) PREPARATION - Continued****Contra Costa Department of Social Services
Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) —****Don Graves**

Independent Living Coordinator

40 Muir Rd.

Martinez, CA 94553

(925) 313-7978

The Contra Costa ILSP has been recognized by the local County Grand Jury as a "Social Service Program that Works." Staff of the ILSP work in partnership with youth in care and youth who have left the foster care system to provide a comprehensive range of services, with special emphasis on peer education, employment training and education, and accessing community resources.

**Green Chimney's Children's Services
Life Skills Preparation for Younger Children****Dr. Gerald Mallon**

Associate Executive Director

Green Chimney's Children's Services

New York, New York 10010

Tel. (212) 677-7288

This life-skills curriculum and training guide was developed in order to provide life skills preparation for younger children in out-of-home care. The curriculum provides extensive assessment, training and evaluation materials for staff, as well as exercises for real-life practice of life skills.

**State of Michigan
Family Independence Agency
Youth in Transition Program****Bryan Stewart**

Independent Living Coordinator

Youth in Transition Program

235 S. Grand, Suite 511

Lansing, MI 48909

Tel. (517) 373-2083

Michigan's Youth in Transition Program provides extensive services and supports to youth in foster care as well as runaway and homeless youth, between the ages of 14 to 21. Services include educational support, job training, independent living skills training, self-esteem counseling, and other programs and supports to equip teens with educational, vocational, and psychosocial skills to function as independent adults. The Tuition Incentive Program encourages high school completion by helping to pay college tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students. The Program has made extensive strides in integrating funding streams, bringing together private/public coalitions and partnerships in order to ensure that young people receive the services they need. Michigan was awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the Skillman Foundation to support independent living service expansion and replication across the state.

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM**DESCRIPTION****II. POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION/CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

New Ways Workers
Steve Trippe or Glenn Eagleson
785 Market Street, Suite 950
San Francisco, CA 94103
Tel. (415) 202-7911

The New Ways Workers is a national organization that partners with public and private partnerships to improve career preparation and employment for youth in care.

 **The Orphan Foundation of America**
Eileen McCaffrey, Executive Director
380 Maple Avenue W.
Vienna, VA 22180
Tel. (703) 281-4226

The Orphan Foundation has been providing college scholarships to older youth in foster care and those who have left care for over ten years. In addition to receiving scholarships, youth have the opportunity to participate in a summer leadership program in which they come to Washington and meet legislators, learn about the Child Welfare system at the national level, and come together to share their experiences and ideas.

 **State of Texas**
Scholarship Program for Foster Youth
Janet Luft
Independent Living Coordinator
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
PO Box 149030, MC B-588
Austin, TX 78714
Tel. (512) 438-5442

The State of Texas has set an example for the nation by passing legislation which allows all of Texas' foster youth to pursue post-secondary education at any state institution at no cost. This effort is supported by a statewide Youth Advisory Board, which has written letters to all of the other states urging them to establish similar programs.

11.b. The State of Florida also provides free college education at state schools for youth in foster care.

 **UPS School-to-Career Partnership for Maryland Youth in Foster Care**
Vince Griffith, Project Director
Living Classrooms Foundation
802 South Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
Tel. (410) 685-0295 FAX (410) 752-8433

The School-to-Career partnership involves UPS, D.C. Metro Region, Maryland Department of Human Resources (including the local Department of Social Services agencies in Baltimore City, and Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties), the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Living Classrooms Foundation to provide youth emancipating from care with part-time jobs, post-secondary educational opportunities and support services. The Living Classrooms Foundation has been recognized by President Clinton and others for innovative maritime training approaches in other programs for at-risk youth.

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM**DESCRIPTION****III. FISCAL MANAGEMENT****HIV Prevention and Life Options Project for Youth in Foster Care**

Wendy Auslander, Ph.D.

George Warren Brown School of Social Work

Washington University in St. Louis

Campus Box 1196, One Brookings Drive

St. Louis, MO 63130

Tel. (314) 935-6600 FAX (314) 935-8511

In collaboration with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Life Options Project for Youth in Foster Care is working to provide an enhanced Independent Living Program with Life Options to 215 youth, ages 15-18, served by the foster care system in St. Louis County. Youth receive deposits into Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) for attending group skill-building sessions, individual education planning sessions, and completing homework. Youth have access to accounts for educational expenses only.

National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)

Brent A. Neiser, CFP

Director of Collaborative Programs

4695 South Monaco Street

Denver, CO 80237

Tel. (303) 220-1200

With support from the Child Welfare League of America, NEFE is writing and disseminating financial planning guides to help prepare youth and young adults in foster care for independent living. In 1998, the Annie E. Casey Foundation supported the development of materials for foster families and case workers. Populations targeted will include national public and private agencies.

IV. PLACE TO LIVE: Transitional and post-foster care living arrangements**Green Chimneys Children's Services**

Gramerry Residence

Dr. Gerald Mallon

Associate Executive Director

Green Chimney's Children's Services

New York, New York 10010

Tel. (212) 677-7288

Green Chimneys has developed this innovative transitional program for gay, bisexual and transgendered young men from New York City's foster care system. The program provides housing, life skills training, individualized case management, and significant case advocacy on behalf of foster youth. Green Chimneys has also established the Triangle Tribe, a support and advocacy group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth in the city.

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM**DESCRIPTION****IV. PLACE TO LIVE - Continued**

Lighthouse Youth Services
Mark Kroner, Director
1527 Madison Road, 3rd Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45206
Tel. (513) 475-5680

Lighthouse Youth Services was a pioneer in the implementation of scattered site apartment independent living services. Foster youth as young as 15-and-a-half are able to live in their own apartment, with intensive support and assistance available 24 hours a day as they learn to become self-sufficient. Lighthouse has since expanded its independent living services to include independent living homes supervised by a live-in mentor. Mark Kroner, the director of IL programs for Lighthouse, has assisted a number of other programs with written information, on-site training and personal consultations.

Residential Youth Services
Living Independently for Tomorrow (LIFT) Programs (I & II)
Dr. Vera Jackson, CEO
2701 Cameron Mills Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22302
Tel. (703) 548-8334

LIFT was established in 1991 as a Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth funded by HHS through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Many former foster youth have been provided with housing, life-skills preparation, and employment support in this program. To meet the needs of youth who are still in the foster care system, LIFT II was established to help prepare young people for independence in a 'real life' environment. Youth in the LIFT programs live in apartments, participate in individual and group life skills instruction, receive counseling and other critical supports from a caring staff, and are helped to achieve educational goals and find meaningful career employment.



United Friends of the Children Bridges
Sandra Rudnick, Chairman of the Board
5721 West Slauson Ave., Suite 120
Culver City, CA 90230
Tel. (310) 338-3646 FAX (310) 215-8220
Email: ufcbridges@aol.com

The Bridges to Independence program provides transitional housing with supportive services, employment preparation and placement assistance to youth who have emancipated from the foster care system in Los Angeles County. The goal is to improve outcomes for the approximately 1,000 young people who emancipate from care each year in Los Angeles County. United Friends Bridges is the lead agency in this collaborative effort. Partners include the Los Angeles DCFS, Community Development Commission, Covenant House California, Salvation Army, the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles Housing Department.

INITIATIVE/PROGRAM**DESCRIPTION****V. YOUTH VOICES/ADVOCACY**

 California Youth Connection
Janet Knipe, Statewide Coordinator
114 Sansome Street, #921
San Francisco, CA 94101
Tel. (415) 398-9036

CYC is a statewide advocacy, support, and education organization of and for California's foster youth. CYC provides opportunities for foster youth and former foster youth ages 14 to 24 to participate in monthly meetings for the purpose of educating themselves about the foster care system, accessing community resources, and becoming agent of positive change in the foster care system. CYC members travel regularly to Sacramento, where they educate state legislators about the needs of foster youth and of the system that serves them.

 = Should be given special attention.