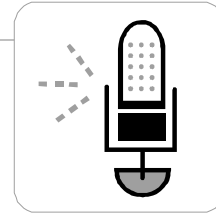




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Fostering Futures

foundation was created to build on the success of our predecessor VESA program. With donor interest outside Contra Costa County and obvious student populations throughout California, Fostering Futures was formed to serve foster youth throughout the state. With no paid staff and our administrative costs funded by our Board of Directors, 100% of all contributions go directly to scholarship recipients

Board of Directors:

Marion Kenyon
Sharon Landis
Peggy Whalen



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Fostering Futures Launches New Foundation to Provide Scholarships for Former Foster Youth

Message from Aaron

"You're going to make it. Don't give up hope," I whispered in my foster father's ear after surgery, as he lay in a coma, near death, motionless except for the uncontrollable seizures brought on by the lesions forming on his brain.

This past year has been a trying one for me. My foster father died of complications relating to a brain tumor. He spent a year hospitalized after surgery, and I decided to take a year off of school to be with him. It was, in retrospect, one of the best decisions I ever made.

He used to encourage me to speak for those that were not as lucky to have the opportunity to represent themselves. How somber I was to not be

able to defend him. I was powerless to stop the death of the man who took me into his home when I had not a place to go in a city that does not forgive the weak.

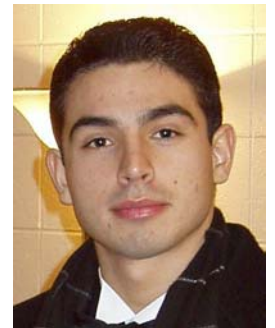
Where I grew up there was alcohol, drugs, guns, and neighborhood thundering in the night, leaving me delusional with nightmares. There was also the bloody neglect from a mother that needed help and the cold ignorance from a father that wasn't there.

With the help of my foster guardians and with the help of the community, I have climbed out of the past.

Certainly, my experience has been

unique -- from a foster child in a violent neighborhood to an Ivy League student.

I am grateful to all who have assisted me along the way, including my friends at Fostering Futures."



Aaron is in his senior year at Princeton University

Mission Statement

Fostering Futures provides scholarship grants to former foster youth seeking higher education.



Fostering Futures Program

Renewable Scholarships: Annual scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 per year per student

Computers: Personal computers are provided to scholarship recipients

Mentoring: An important part of our program, volunteers provide a personal link between our program and scholarship recipients in aiding them in attaining their goals

Message from the President

“Last year the financial portion of the scholarship went toward monthly bills and the nurturing portion of the scholarship went into my heart, and for that again I am grateful.”

Malcom



As a former foster child, I am one of the lucky ones. After spending five years in and out of foster homes, I was adopted, a turning point in my life that opened doors of opportunity that are closed to most foster youth.

I carry the pain of abandonment that is shared by many foster youth. The difference for me is not what I went through, but what I did not go through. I never lived in fear of a schizophrenic mother who wielded a butcher knife as she chased me around the house; never suffered the pain of knowing my father was incarcerated before I was born; never needed years of counseling to overcome the scars caused by sexual or physical abuse of a stepfather or mere neglect of unknowing parents; never witnessed the devastation of life with a drug addicted parent. These are the extremes, of course. Some foster youth come from a home where parents died and there was no one within the extended family capable or willing to take them in. Whatever the circumstances,

these bright young people deserve an opportunity to pursue their goals of higher education.

It is with this background that I co-founded Fostering Futures, a program that gives more than financial support. In addition to our monetary grants, we have personal contact with our students, show them we care, show them that their community wants them to succeed and is willing to invest in them. We also offer them tools for success, including computers. Some of these students enter college having never owned their own personal computer. We are changing their lives and their attitudes toward themselves and their futures.

Some students share not only details of their journey but the story of their past, while others are more private, trying to leave the past behind while striving to make the most of the future.

Fostering Futures was formed to focus on these special students. Our scholarship recipients attend

the full gamut of educational institutions, from vocational training to the Ivy League. With no paid staff and a dedicated board of directors funding all administrative expenses, we guaranty that 100% of all donations will be used to directly benefit our students.

These students have taught me what true perseverance means. Most of them have experienced more challenges in their first 18 years than many of us experience in a lifetime. They are my inspiration and their successes are my reward.

I'm sure you will agree education is critical to success. Won't you join me in the pursuit of my passion, helping foster youth fulfill their dreams and attain their educational goals.

Marion Kenyon



“My friends at Fostering Futures have been very instrumental in providing me with other resources to help me get through college. I really appreciate their time and dedication.”

Kennisha

This is why we are FOSTERING FUTURES!

Ian ...

Ian has started her junior year at University of San Francisco, with an ultimate goal of attending medical school. This soft-spoken warmhearted young woman has set high goals for herself and kept focused. With a wonderful outlook on life and a passion to help others, she continues on the road to success.

Janay...

A junior at California State University Sacramento, Janay is majoring in social work, with a minor in public policy and administration, with a long-term goal of attaining an advanced degree in social work so she can return to her community to do public service. A responsible and hard-working student, she developed a P.A.U.S.E. program and served as a mentor for the ESTEP program, each of which help current foster youth get ready to emancipate.

Pammi...

Currently attending Sacramento City College, Pammi works part time yet finds time to volunteer at ILP assisting other foster youth through workshops and public speaking. This motivated and responsible young man aspires to attend UC Berkeley and attain a degree in psychology.

Princess...

Studying at California State University Dominguez Hills, Princess plans to transfer to Cal State Davis, where she will continue her studies while being closer to her aunt, who has been a tremendous support. This hard-working young woman receives excellent grades and has found balance between school, work and community service.

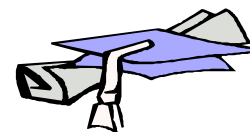
Malcom...

Having completed his two-year program at Merritt Community College, Malcom has transferred to U. C. Berkeley. Personable and a good speaker, he has demonstrated his maturity by helping others through peer mentoring and advocacy. He is majoring in business.

“I want to thank you for all your support since the beginning of my educational journey. Without your support, I could not be where I am today.”

Daniella

From vocational training to the Ivy League, we have more than 30 students currently in our program.



Fostering Futures Board of Directors



Marion Kenyon, Sheron Landis, Peggy Whalen

Let Us Introduce:

Kim Mitchell, Ph.D.



With Christen, one of our first computer recipients.

Kim is the guiding force of our computer program, volunteering his time procuring and delivering computers to our students. He spent much of his career in the semiconductor and energy fields. He now travels all over the world, pioneering new technologies to convert sunlight to electricity and to reduce electrical losses in power electronics. Kim lives in San Ramon with his wife, Bella, who owns and operates the Danville/Saratoga boutique Flobell with her sister. He also enjoys remodeling old buildings, cave exploring, marine biology and oceanography and most things outdoors.

“The new laptop and printer you granted me have gifted me with potential. I can’t thank you enough.”

Christen

Special Acknowledgement!

Fostering Futures acknowledges the continued support of scholarships in Contra Costa County funded through VESA. With the success of their last fundraiser, an elegant fashion show/luncheon chaired by Valarie Pagnini, VESA’s funding sponsored seven new scholarships and eight renewals in Contra Costa County.

We wish also to acknowledge the kind support of our many continuing donors, including friends at Diablo Funding, Brentwood, as well as others, some of whom wish to remain anonymous.

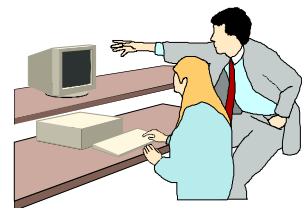
Did You Know?

More than 100,000 children and youth are in foster care in California.

More than 4,000 foster youth emancipate from the California foster system annually.

25-50% of foster youth nationwide become homeless after emancipation, with lack of job skills and opportunities being a major cause.

Education is the key to the successful emancipation of foster youth!



Thank You!

Foster Farms

A generous grant from this corporate sponsor has funded our expansion into Merced & Stanislaus Counties

Al & Patt Shaw

A special contribution to benefit foster youth scholars in Solano County

Steve & Kathy Hallock

Their donation has put us in an excellent position to continue the work started in Contra Costa as well as supporting scholarships in other counties, including Sacramento and Napa.

Christina Shih, M.D.

We appreciate her ongoing support

A sampling of our first-year scholars: Congratulations



*“Thank you for believing in me.”
Rekha*

Brittany

Solano Community College

Stacey

National Holistic Institute

Shandell

Los Medanos Community College

Melinda

CSU Davis

Kedra

Solano Community College

Daniel

Santa Monica College

Salonje

CSU Stanislaus

Michael

Brigham Young University, Idaho

Marc, whose passion for cooking fueled his desire to attend the Culinary Academy of San Francisco, has graduated. After serving an internship at Trader Vic's Emeryville, Marc has taken up residence in Southern California.
Good work, Marc!



*“Thank you for believing in former foster youth and our dreams. Please don't ever stop”
Janay*



Touch the Future.....Yes, I would like to assist in Fostering Futures!

Fostering Futures Program

\$1,000 provides the first year of a scholarship to one student starting post-high school education.

\$2,000 provides a scholarship to a student who has successfully completed at least one year in any program.

\$750 provides one student a laptop computer.

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
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Enclosed is my \$ _____ tax-deductible contribution to Fostering Futures.

All contributions are 100% tax deductible 76-0766420 501(c)(3)

Please check here if you wish to schedule a speaker for your organization or would like to do a fundraiser for Fostering Futures.

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