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## Fostering Futures

foundation was formed to provide scholarships and other assistance to foster youth throughout California. At 18, these youth "age out" of foster care, leaving them with little or no financial and/or emotional support as they transition into adulthood. Renewable scholarships are provided to eligible students wishing to continue their education, whether at trade schools, junior colleges or universities.

With no paid staff and administrative expenses funded by our Board of Directors, 100% of all contributions go directly to scholarship recipients

## Board of Directors:

Marion Kenyon  
Sharon Landis  
Peggy Whalen

# San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Alex Smith Partners with Fostering Futures



Alex Smith shown with Fostering Futures scholarship recipient Aaron, Princeton Class of 2006  
Photo courtesy of. Kyle Chesser, Hands On Photography

"Forward Progress for Foster Teens in Transition" is the motto of The Alex Smith Foundation. One of Alex' primary goals with his foundation is to fund programs to help increase graduation rates among foster youth and also to help them after they turn 18, when government programs stop rendering assistance. As he says, "You're kind of just put on the street and have to fend for yourself. I would like to help them in that transition period."

Fostering Futures is proud that Alex chose our program as a recipient of one of his first grants.

Thank you, Alex, for using your celebrity to raise public awareness of the special needs of foster youth in transition and your financial resources to directly assist students on their journeys to successful and fulfilling futures through higher education.

*"Fostering Futures is a successful non-profit with passionate and effective leadership and I am very proud to be partnering with them. We have a common vision and goal, to support foster youth in transition."*

*Alex Smith*

## Mission Statement

Fostering Futures provides scholarship grants and other support 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

### Krystal, not only a survivor, but an achiever!



They were making it, but just barely. They were a family, a small family, Krystal and her mother. Dad had disappeared long ago.

Then their small difficult world got worse, much worse. When Krystal was five years old her mother suffered a disabling aneurysm and stroke. Mom struggled to keep her daughter, but was unable to do so. That started Krystal's vagabond life, moving from relative to relative, experiencing, at best, neglect, and, at worst, indescribable abuse. By the time the "system" found her, at age 11, and placed her in foster care, she had more firsthand knowledge of life's dark side than most of us see on the evening news. She was moved from one foster home to the next. Eventually, she ran away. Then came time in juvenile hall and jail time on alcohol-related charges.

In high school, Krystal decided to take charge of her life and make something of herself. She had overcome her alcohol and drug

addiction, had discovered spirituality, and was concentrating on school, dreaming of going to college.

Her Dad reappeared and together they sought family counseling. Things seemed to be going well for Krystal.

After completing high school with excellent grades, she went to College of Alameda, graduating with honors. Our member/mentors were proud to be invited to her graduation. We had watched her blossom and excel.

Then came her acceptance to the prestigious Haas School of Business at University of California, Berkeley. We visited her and toured the campus. Our Krystal had really grown up. She was learning and competing with the best and brightest.

Then returned the dark. Having Dad back in her life turned out to be a disaster. Eventually, criminal charges were filed against him. Krystal, emotionally bruised, sought a one-year leave of absence from school. Haas generously granted her request. She spent a year seeking spiritual guidance, attending therapy, resting her body and spirit. She was also

able to take some courses at California State University, Sacramento.

Now back at Haas and in her senior year, Krystal is doing well, feeling good, working hard, and succeeding. With her graduation due in June, we plan to be there, share that next step in the journey of a bright young woman with perseverance. She is a survivor and an achiever.

*"Fostering Futures has supported me in so many ways. You have been a guide for me as well as friend. I am so grateful to have you in my life. You have motivated me and encouraged me throughout my college years. I know I could not do it without you."*

*Krystal*





*“I am proud of what I accomplished in my first year of college. I still need support, encouragement and your belief in me that I can accomplish my goals,”*

*Low*

*“It is up to me to make something of myself and my life and I plan to succeed.”*

*Juliana*

*I decided to take my past and use it as a strength to get me through life with compassion and a positive perspective to others.”*

*Juan*

## This is why we are FOSTERING FUTURES!

### Ross ...

Ross graduated high school with a 3.5 gpa and continues his high academic achievement at California State University, Stanislaus. He works at Home Depot, yet finds time for his favorite sport, soccer, playing on the CSU team. Raised without biological parents, Ross credits his Aunt JoAnne with being the most influential person in his life, instilling in him the importance of a good education. As a junior at CSU Stanislaus, he expects to graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice Administration and hopes to become a sheriff for Contra Costa County.

### Carly...

The Fostering Futures interview team describes Carly as mature, poised, level-headed and, yes, an excellent student. She is focused, with not only a realistic plan but a back-up plan. This young mother has completed many of the prerequisites toward her goal of becoming a respiratory therapist, which will entail at least two more years of study at American River Community College.

### Jamelia...

Jamelia works two part-time jobs while attending St. Mary's College, majoring in psychology and English. After the death of both parents, Jamelia spent time in numerous foster homes. She has not let her difficult early years hold her back. She vowed to not let her past have a negative effect on her education. She says her early life tragedies merely drove her to study harder in school.

### Tiffany...

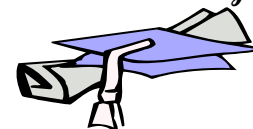
Tiffany, a third year student at San Francisco State University, maintains excellent grades as she pursues her degree in Criminal Justice. Although grateful for her supportive foster mother, Tiffany realizes not all foster children have the same experience. Her concern for children who fall through gaps in the system has fueled her desire to obtain a law degree and advocate for change. Positive, thoughtful and determined, Tiffany has mentored at the Boys and Girls Club and is currently working twenty hours a week at the SFSU Library.

### Kevin

A sophomore at San Jose State University, Kevin is majoring in political science and sociology. He aspires to have a career in public service. This personable young man enjoys meeting new people, likes sports, including baseball, football and weight lifting, has participated in student government and volunteered as a tutor for Americorps. He is also an active member of CME Society, an organization that assists foster youth

*“I want to be the first in my immediate family to receive a degree from a university.”*

*Serenity*



## Congratulations!

**Aaron – Princeton University, B.A. Political Science**  
**Janay – California State University Sacramento, B.A. Social Sciences**  
**Stacey – National Hosiltic Institute, Certification in Massage Therapy**



Please go to [www.fosteringfuturesfoundation.org](http://www.fosteringfuturesfoundation.org) for more student summaries for many of the 45 students currently in the Fostering Futures scholarship program.

## Message from the President:

What a great year it has been for Fostering Futures and the youth we serve. Through the generosity of the community, we currently have 45 students receiving renewable scholarships. These scholars have a wide variety of interests, including studying cosmetology in community college, working toward a bachelor's in nursing, nearing completion of a master's degree in social work, and many others.

We are proud to have many loyal supporters who continue to contribute, including Foster Farms, the Hallock family, Alta Mortgage, Kiwanis Club of SRV, Rita Caruso, the Shaws, the Collini family, and more. Then there are our new donors, the many individuals and organizations who believe in these young people. They recognize that these students -- who, through no fault of their own, have little or no family support, either financially or emotionally -- deserve the right to pursue their goals for higher education and a successful future.

I wish to thank my Board of Directors for their generosity in giving their time as well as their financial support. It has been an exciting year for us. With the support of volunteer mentors, we stay in contact with students, follow their progress and offer assistance and/or guidance. We have provided some students with laptop computers and printers; however, unfortunately, we have several students who still do not own a personal computer.

I want to especially thank the many students who have opened their hearts and shared a part of their lives. It has been an honor to come to know so many of them. I appreciate each and every student in our program, cherish every contact, whether it's an occasional email, a quick phone call, a personal visit, shared outing, or merely the semi-annual update letter sharing their progress, relaying their challenges and accomplishments. These students are my inspiration and their successes are my reward.

*Marion Kenyon*



Marion Kenyon, Sheron Landis, Peggy Whalen

## Thank You!!!!!!

**Lafayette Service League** made a generous contribution to Fostering Futures as a result of their annual Tossed Treasures Sale.

Several scholarships were funded by the **Don H. Splawn Charitable Foundation**.

The **Summers** family donated a car, the sale of which allowed us to award several scholarships.

Another special friend, **Ty Johnson**, generously provided Dave Matthews Band tickets and VIP passes which were sold at our first on-line auction.

And, of course, special thanks to **CPA Patrick Piacentini** for his professional assistance

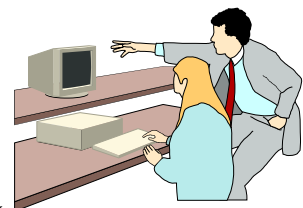
## Did You Know?

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!



*“I know my only chance to have a better future is to graduate from college. I always try my hardest because I know every class and every semester is bringing me one step closer to my degree, my dream career in respiratory care therapy and, ultimately, true independence.”*

*Carly*



## Fostering Futures Launches Web site

With the assistance of our creative volunteer Web master, Lauren Hunter, Fostering Futures has an informative new Web site, which includes many student profiles with photos.

[www.fosteringfuturesfoundation.org](http://www.fosteringfuturesfoundation.org)

Thank you, Lauren, for sharing your creativity and time in not only setting up our Web page but also updating and maintaining the site.

### Local Alamo store selling items on eBay to benefit Fostering Futures



The Easy Way to Sell on eBay

Our friends at the Alamo location of "I Sold It on eBay" will sell your unwanted items on eBay with the proceeds going to Fostering Futures. It's quick and easy. They do all the work. You merely drop off your items for sale and they do the rest, sending the proceeds to Fostering Futures. So go by their store at the Alamo Plaza, behind BofA, or visit their Web site.

Anything that can be sold on eBay can be used to benefit foster youth scholarships. So clean out your garage, your cupboards and your closets for Fostering Futures.

[www.isoldit680.com](http://www.isoldit680.com)

**Did you know.....**you can designate Fostering Futures in your United Way giving!

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

#### Fostering Futures Program

All contributions, large or small, are greatly appreciated.

**\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Fostering Futures**

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