

Fostering Futures



Scholarship Program

The Fostering Futures Foundation was formed to provide scholarships, mentoring, and other assistance to foster youth throughout California. At 18, these youth “age out” of foster care, often 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 vocational schools, community colleges or universities. All staff volunteer their time and administrative expenses are funded by the Board of Directors, allowing 100 percent of all contributions to go directly to scholarship recipients.

Board of Directors:

Marion Kenyon
 Sheron Landis
 Peggy Whalen

From Abused Child to Successful College Student

After a childhood marked by pain, former foster youth **Tyrone** is stunned to find himself the recipient of so much that is good. This June, Tyrone graduated City College of San Francisco with an Associate degree in Liberal Arts and a 3.83 grade point average. He has been accepted into the University of California, Berkeley. Additionally, he was awarded a renewable scholarship by Fostering Futures that will help pay for his education.

Not long ago, Tyrone didn't think I was good. Tyrone said, is common sage he'd heard throughout

His father, a heroin addict, Tyrone and his siblings was “violent and aggressed by keeping to him—on his mother throwing a in the stomach. Tyrone knew his mother's wrath too well: more than once she had held a knife to his throat. Even so, seeing his sister attacked, he asked himself, “*What are you going to do? Are you going to be silent?*” He was 12 years old.



consider college an option. “I enough.” That kind of mentality, with foster youth. It was a mess his childhood.

left when Tyrone was nine, and were raised by a mother who self—until the day he walked in lamp at his sister and hitting her

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...continued on page 3

Congratulations to Our 2009 Fostering Futures Graduates!

- Ross - California State University Stanislaus, B.A. Criminal Justice Administration**
- Kevin - San Jose State University, B.A. Political Science & Social Science**
- Shaun - San Jose State University, B.A. Communications**
- Jamelia - St. Mary's College, B.A. Psychology**
- Anastasiya - University of California Davis, B.S. Biochemistry & Molecular Biology**
- Christen - California State University Chico, B.A. Social Work**

Mission Statement

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

Scholarships: We provide renewable scholarships from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year per student.

Computers: Personal computers and printers 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.

This is why we are Fostering Futures . . .



Brandy was born into an illiterate family and, before going into the foster system at age 11, grew up in poverty. She has vowed to not let that happen to her children. She did poorly in high school due to the emotional turmoil in her life, including an abusive relationship that resulted in her becoming a single teen mom. Motherhood brought a maturity and realization that she needed to change her life to be able to have her own healthy and happy family. She is in her final year at University of California Davis and hopes to use her experience and education as a youth advocate.



Crystal has experienced abuse, homelessness, and much more. Although she lives with the scars, both emotional and physical, of her childhood, she has developed into a confident, self-reliant, mature young woman. Now in her second year at Stanford University, Crystal works summer and breaks as an EMT so she can support herself. She was referred to us by another Stanford student who is a Fostering Futures scholar.



Rebecca was a teen runaway who landed in a foster group home after Social Services investigated her living situation. She was living on her own and emancipated at 17 years old and finished high school a semester early. Her dream has been to go into nursing, but she worried – with all the restrictions and a lottery system for admission into nursing school – that she would not be admitted. As a student at City College of San Francisco, Rebecca has taken most of her general education courses in preparation for nursing school. She “missed” the lottery the past five semesters and even changed her major to environmental science for a year while waiting to see if she would ever get accepted. Because of persistence, she recently received word that in January she will be admitted into the two-year nursing program at CCSF, after which she will sit for the exam for her RN license.

Fostering Futures can now make it really easy, fast, convenient and secure for our donors to make contributions using credit card or PayPal.

Go to www.fosteringfuturesfoundation.org and click on "How You Can Help" and click on the PayPal button.

100% of all donor dollars go directly to students.

Fostering Futures has no paid staff and all administrative expenses are paid by members of the Board of Directors.

...continued from page 1

Tyrone jumped in and pulled his mother away. In retaliation, she locked up the food and refused to feed him from that day on. To survive, Tyrone took odd jobs at the apartment building where he lived. His best friend's parents fed and cared for him and taught him what a family could be. After more conflict at home, Tyrone sought help from a school counselor. Child Protective Services soon intervened, and Tyrone's arduous journey through the foster care system began.

It has mostly been an uphill battle, but Tyrone persevered, accepting help when offered and taking advice when needed. In his second year at City College, he was referred to Fostering Futures. We are pleased to provide him funding and he will continue to receive more much-needed assistance to fulfill his dreams of higher education.

Fostering Futures "provides support if I need help," Tyrone said. Marion Kenyon, the foundation's president, is "so compassionate and caring. She wants [foster youth] to be the best that we can be."

This fall, Tyrone begins a new journey toward a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies. He wants to help the underprivileged. Anyone hearing his story would say that he already is making a difference.

Senator John Burton Partners with Fostering Futures

John Burton was in public service for more than 40 years, not only in the U.S. Congress, but also the California State Assembly and the California State Senate. Always a champion of the under-served, after his retirement in 1983 Senator Burton continued his advocacy and in 2004 founded the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes.

The John Burton Foundation has worked to improve outcomes for California's children and youth in foster care and had a key role in increasing funding of the Transitional Housing Placement Plus program to provide much-needed housing for emancipated foster youth. The John Burton Foundation has used Senator Burton's vast experience and relationship-building to advocate for and assist foster youth.

Fostering Futures is proud to have Senator Burton as a partner who shares our goals in support of emancipated foster youth and we thank him for his generosity and financial support.

Message from the President:

Thank you, loyal donors, for your continuing support. Like many charitable foundations, we have seen cutbacks, but our loyal donors continue to share the passion of our mission and, through their generosity, we have been able to renew, and often increase, scholarships to all qualified existing Fostering Futures scholarship recipients. And thank you, our wonderful volunteers. Not only do we have dedicated mentors but we have new volunteers updating our website, editing our annual newsletter, and also a new volunteer grantwriter, who has enabled us to reach out into the community and gain funding for many new scholarships. We are expanding our reach and adding new grant recipients, while at the same time retaining our high standards of student contact and support, both financially and emotionally. We have, in our first five years of existence, provided grants to more than 80 students. 30 of those students have graduated, and, of those, five continue to receive funding as graduate students. The school term 2009-'10 will see a record number of Fostering Futures scholarship recipients.

- Marion Kenyon

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!***



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**“Chance favors the prepared mind.”
- Louis Pasteur**