



The Advisory

A Youth Voice of Empowerment Making a Difference

Nevada Life YAB Newsletter; Volume 1; Issue 2; Spring 2013

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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WHAT IS NEVADA LIFE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB)?



Nevada Life is the Youth Advisory Board for the state of Nevada. Locally, each county has their own council of current and former foster youth. We all come together to form the Nevada Life Youth Advisory Board (YAB). We try to come up with the best ways to reach out to youth in care, letting them know that they are not alone. We also provide a voice aimed at influencing social policies and practices that affect all foster and former foster youth. One great idea we came up with is a newsletter. Thus, *The Advisory* was created. **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

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LOCAL COUNCIL UPDATES



INSPIRATIONAL YOUTH OF PAHRUMP UPDATES

The Inspirational Youth of Pahrump started in May 2009 and the officers consist of President, Vice President, Historian/Treasurer, and Events Coordinator. Last December, the IYP put on a wonderful event know as "Magic of Christmas." Over four hundred and fifty people attended and it was a huge success! The youth members of the Inspirational Youth of Pahrump came out and volunteered their time with the younger youth. In addition to volunteering with the younger youth, the IYP helped the younger kids make greeting cards, decorate cupcakes, and drank hot chocolate and ate cookies to celebrate the holiday season. Awesome job, Pahrump!

WAYCUP UPDATE

Washoe Advocates for Youth Council Uplift Program During the month of October, members of WAYCUP participated in the Susan G. Komen 5K race. In celebration of Nevada Day, WAYCUP members volunteered at the Governor's Mansion on October 31st. Acting as historians of the various rooms the WAYCUP participants informed visitors about mansion history including everything from the haunted clock to the variety of pets including an alligator who lived in the basement.



In addition to these great accomplishments, WAYCUP donated \$250.00 to the Kids Kottage to upgrade bathroom conditions in K3. Lastly, during the month of December WAYCUP sold Santa Grams and raised \$580.00. The month of March brings the 6th anniversary for WAYCUP plus a ski trip to Mount Rose ski resort on the 17th.

Spotlight on Foster Club

Foster Club is the national network for foster youth that helps them connect with each other and build strong ties with each other. When it was founded in February of 2000, the main purpose was to provide different ways for youth in care to have a voice and feel empowered about themselves and their situations. As time has progressed, Foster Club has become stronger and accomplished numerous achievements that have blazed the trail for foster care non-profits around the country. In addition to this, the youth that have sought resources and advice from Foster Club have become more empowered and trailblazers for the future generations.



A new program that is being created at Foster Club is an initiative called “It’s Complicated.” This program addresses relationships and the subject of sexuality and how youth in care are more vulnerable because they have been raised in such a treacherous environment. Within this initiative, there is a core leadership group of seven people who review literature on these two topics and later make suggestions about how the education on relationships and sexuality can be better made available to foster youth, foster parents, and child welfare professionals.

If you are a young adult looking for advice or just looking to make a difference, then becoming a part of Foster Club’s community is the thing to do. There are message boards, blogs, and polls that offer a new way of thinking and a way of empowering yourself. For more information, you can go to www.fosterclub.com or call Foster Club at 503-717-1552.

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)



The federal government gives Nevada the money to provide Independent Living Services. Currently there isn’t any way to be sure that what the state is doing is working. That is what the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) will do, evaluate our Independent Living Program (IL). Beginning in the fall, youth whose 17th birthday is between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014 will be interviewed by their social worker or youth worker regarding the services they have received from the Independent Living Program and how they are doing in their transition to adulthood. These same youth will be asked to complete the same interview when they are 19 and again when they are 21.

Questions within the NYTD survey involve the following areas: financial self-sufficiency, experience with homelessness, educational attainment, positive adult connections, high-risk behavior, and access to health insurance. All information collected will be kept confidential by the state and provided to the federal government without any identification of the youth.

Why should these youth participate? This is their chance to make sure that IL services and outcomes for youth in Nevada are counted. It also will help us identify things we can do better. Their involvement in NYTD will encourage other youth to participate, positively impact their life, and ultimately, improve services for younger youth in the state. We know that the outcomes of many youth who leave care are not always that positive. By participating and being active with NYTD, you can help change those outcomes.

If you will be 19 years old between October 1, 2012 and September 31, 2013 and participate in any IL service, you will be interviewed. This is your chance to help others and leave a legacy! We want all youth to be successful. This is your chance to help make that happen by giving your input which will be used to improve services for foster youth in Nevada and throughout the country.

DEAR YABBY



What are some alternatives other than attending a four-year university?

Not everyone is the same. To explain this more clearly, not everyone wants to attend a typical university. Some people make the choice to attend a school like “The Art Institutes,” which can help you train to be a chef or a graphic designer. Other people decide that they want to serve their country and they choose to enlist in either the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, and when they are done with their term of service, the military will help them pay for school so they can earn a degree. In most cases, people decide to go to a community college, which allows them to take classes in an unconventional setting and costs less money. Regardless of what you choose, as long as you make a decision to do something worthwhile, you have the option to further your education and become anything that you want to be.

If you have any questions about foster care, local youth advisory councils, the statewide Youth Advisory Board, or the child welfare system, please send them to the Independent Living email address: IL@dcs.nv.gov, and we will print your question here and answer it as best as possible. If you also have any suggestions about how to make the newsletter better, let us know that as well. We want to make this newsletter as helpful as possible.

TOP TEN ITEMS NEEDED TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID

1. **SHOW ME THE MONEY \$\$\$** Depending on school of choice and budget abilities, a student may attend post secondary education without accessing any student loans. No Debt!!
2. **Apply to ETV** yearly - every February/March for the August/May school year (2/13, 13/14, 14/15etc.)
3. **Apply to Otto Huth** by April 15 of application year and prior to **age 19**.
4. **Learn school financial aid** procedure and class payment dates.
5. **Keep final court documents** - for financial aid purposes.
6. **Students Loans MUST** be paid back.
7. **Pell Grants are FREE monies**.
8. **FAFSA applications are FREE!** Apply online at fafsa.ed.gov every January/February for the August/May school year.
9. **Apply and/or research** college and/or trade school of choice six months before classes start.
10. **Acquire High School Diploma** or attain GED.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

National Foster Parent Association

The National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) offers scholarships for foster youth, adopted youth, or biological youth of currently licensed foster parents, who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational and job training, and correspondence courses, including the GED. To apply:

- Complete FAFSA application
- Apply Senior year of high school
- Provide high school transcripts
- Provide cost from college/university
- Complete application with ALL documentation by March 31 of each year
- Supply school acceptance letter
- Two letters of recommendation
- 300-500 word essay "Why I want to further my education and why should I be considered for NFPA scholarship?"

Foster Care to Success

<http://www.fc2success.org>

Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of merit and need, and funding levels are determined based on cost of attendance and other resources. To apply you must be:

- In foster care for one consecutive year at the time of 18th birthday or high school graduation
- Adopted after 16th birthday
- Accepted/enrolled in accredited university, community college or vocational/tech institute
- Be under the age of 25 on March 31, 2010 (year of application)
- Online application at <http://www.fc2success.org/>

Additional materials must be mailed to Foster to Success by April 15, 2013 (year of application).

Otto A. Huth Scholarship Trust Fund

Deadline for application is **April 15th** of each year.

The Otto Huth Scholarship provides funds for Nevada Universities, community college, business school and/or trade school.

Huth Scholarships are given for post high school education for a maximum of five years, with the intent of the

student obtaining an undergraduate degree or a trade school certification. No funds are to be used for post graduate education. Once a scholarship amount is awarded, it will not be increased from the original amount approved.



\$\$ Maximum five years Paid Expenses \$\$

- Tuition
- On-campus room/board
- Books
- Student health insurance
- On-campus meals (for off campus residence)

Application is five pages requesting your education and personal interest.

Provide 2 essays

- What have you learned and how have you overcome adversities in your life?
- How will scholarship benefit you and where do you see yourself one year and five years from now?

Criteria of Huth Scholarship

- Apply before **age 19**
- (Initiate postsecondary education at a institution located in the State of Nevada.
- Begin post high school education within 12 months after receipt of acceptance. A copy of the high school diploma or GED must be sent to Wells Fargo Bank, Trustee with enrollment information.
- High school GPA showing continued improvement, school involvement, stable employment history, community involvement, required essays and letters of recommendation.
- Must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to the Huth Scholarship application deadline.
- Also need to submit copies of award letters received, including but not limited to Pell Grant, ETV and FAFFY.

For more information and to obtain an application for the Otto Huth Scholarship, go to:

http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_ScholarshipInfo.htm

SCHOLARSHIPS/COLLEGE FUNDING

Education & Training Voucher (ETV) offers financial assistance to current or former foster youth for post-secondary education and training.

\$5,000.00 per school year!!

Eligibility:

- Nevada youth, formerly in foster care, adopted at age 16 or older
- Current and former foster youth eligible for Chaffee Independent Living Program Services

Young adults, formerly in foster care exiting at age 18, currently age 21 remain eligible until they attain 23 years of age, if participating in ETV Program on their 21st birthday and are enrolled in a post secondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of their program

Eligible Institutions

- Admits as regular students only persons with HS diploma, GED, or students above the average age of high school attendance
- Authorized by the State to provide postsecondary education
- Provides an educational program which awards a bachelor's degree, or at least a two-year program (associates degree) or provided at least a one-year training program to prepare students for gainful employment
- Vocational institution must be in existence for at least two years, which provides a training program to prepare students for gainful employment

Eligible Expenses \$\$

- Books, Supplies, Computer
- Child care expenses
- Current year student loan
- Expenses related to work experience
- Room and Board
- Transportation
- Tuition, fees, class materials

For more info contact your social worker, The Children's Cabinet, or Google Education and Training voucher, Nevada.



I would like to thank everyone for their support, on behalf of Nevada Life. Our advisors have been extremely helpful in everything we have done. Thank you very much and let us all continue to do our best.

~The Advisory Staff

Scholarship Websites

Education & Training Voucher

www.childrencabinet.org

Federal Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Millennium Scholarship

www.nevadatreasurer.gov

National Foster Parent Association

www.nasfaa.org

Foster Care to Success

<http://www.fc2success.org/>

Otto A Huth Scholarship

www.dcfs.state.nv.us/DCFS_ScholarshipInfo.htm

CONTACT INFORMATION



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and link to:

http://www.dcfs.state.nv.us/DCFS_IndependentLiving.htm

Nevada DCFS

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