

The Advisory

A Youth Voice of Empowerment Making a Difference

Nevada Life YAB Newsletter; Fall 2013



just like the
seasons, people
have the ability
to change

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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The Fall Issue

In this issue of the Advisory we will recap some of the events that have occurred the last couple of months with Nevada's Independent Living youth. The focus of this issue is to help you find success within yourself.

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This past April youth and young people from all around the state had the opportunity to be present for some of the legislative events.

Youth from Reno and Carson City attended the Pinwheels for prevention on the legislature lawn and they got to plant pinwheels in support of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Youth and Young People from Nevada were also invited to Children's Week at the Legislature and we had representative from Reno, Carson City and Las Vegas! Everyone had the opportunity to tour the legislature building and attend some of the hearings. Youth and Young People even advocated for specific bills.

There were 2 bills that directly affect IL youth in Nevada. The first one is Assembly Bill 393, this bill made changes to the current NRS laws that speak about the rights of foster youth while they are in foster care, language was added to the law that expands the rights of children in foster care. It makes sure that visits with siblings are not withheld as a form of punishment and that youth can request information about what is going on with their siblings when not placed in the same homes.

The second bill Senate Bill 99 changes the credit reporting process for youth in foster care ages 16 and older. Did you know that if you are in foster care and are 16-18 years old, that there is a credit report run for you to ensure that no one has committed fraud with your information? A yearly report is run for you. If you are 16 or older ask your worker about your credit report and make sure you understand what is on there. If there is any fraud, someone will help you get those issues resolved.

Updates

Statewide IL Conference—Las Vegas Nevada July 2013

By: Nathan, 2013 YAB President

This year's Nevada statewide IL Conference was one to remember! There were wonderful speakers that talked about things that everyone could really connect with. A couple examples of that would be highlighted with the speakers Rhonda Sciortino and Tiger Todd. Rhonda's presentation during the conference was fantastic as she spoke about her life and the trials that she had to overcome. The truly great thing that I am sure most people respected is that Rhonda aged out of foster care. Rhonda's speech focused on never giving up, that just because someone is in foster care doesn't mean they can't achieve their dreams.



PLAY TO WIN
July 11-12, 2013
Sunset Station Casino
LAS VEGAS, NV

If you wish to be a sponsor, speaker, or presenter
please contact Cynthia Metzger at 702-455-8484
or MetzgeCL@ClarkCountyNV.gov

Special thanks to



Another wonderful speaker at this year's conference was Tiger Todd. Mr. Todd was excellent at connecting with us youth through the one that I am sure everyone pays attention to and that is MOVIES. Mr. Todd just wasn't speaking about movies he was encouraging youth to find their inner hero. Mr. Todd not only got us to think deeply about the movies we watch he also gave insight on a new way to approach people. He made sure to keep everyone involved by using a variety of tactics to bring out laughter among everyone. I would have to say that what made this year's conference so great was the fact that we had such inspiring speakers.

As I close on what I felt were great things that happened at the year's conference I would like to say that these speaker highlighted something that we all should cherish and that is the ability to believe in ourselves. If we all believe that we are special and set out to achieve our goals there is nothing that can stand in our way!

For more information about Rhonda Sciortino check out her website Rhonda.org and for information about Tiger Todd visit www.heroschool.us



Youth Spotlight

Our 2013 YAB Secretary Ollie wrote an article that was published on the National Foster Care Month website, here is what she had to say about successful transitions from foster care.

SUPPORT IS THE KEY TO A YOUTH'S SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

By: Ollie, 2013 YAB Secretary

When you are a foster child, a strong support system can be the thing that either makes you or breaks you. Through all of the different placements, the different caseworkers, and the emotional havoc that it has upon youth in care, it often can seem like there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

If I were to say that I was optimistic throughout my 9 years in care, I would be lying. However, around age 15, I learned to find joy and happiness in the small things in life. Whenever I visited my older sister or had heart-to-hearts with my younger sister about life, I started to realize how much I had grown, and even though I was going through a tough time, I could either lie down and die or I could keep my head up and keep focusing on graduating from high school and achieving my dream of going to college.

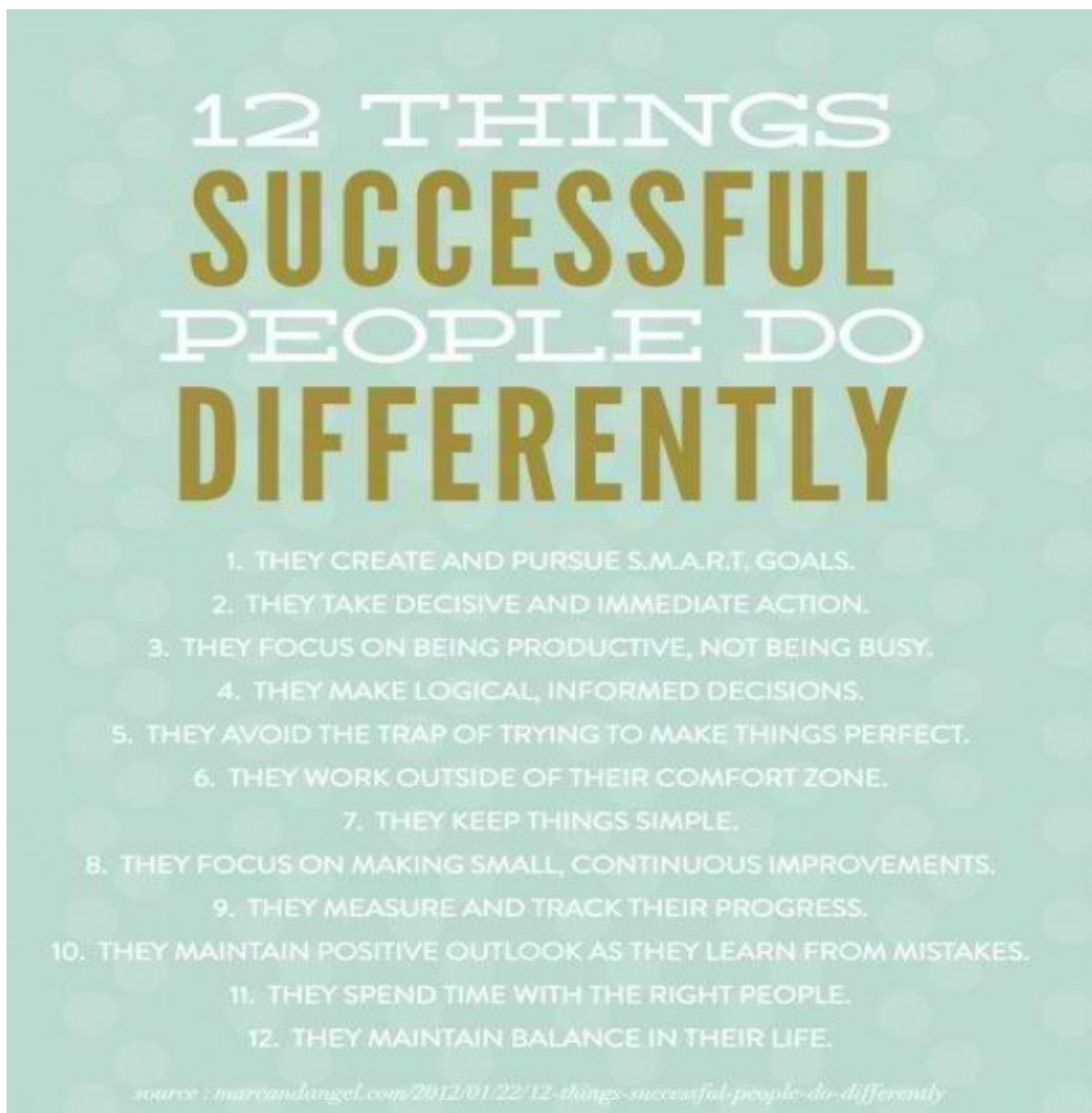
At age 17, many foster youth enter Independent Living, which is a program that teaches teens how to live on their own. Throughout this program, foster teens are taught to open a checking account, make a budget, and use time management so they can effectively balance school with home life. Luckily, for me, I had a strong support system, and there were people who were with me every step of the way. From the time that I moved into my independent living home to the day that I started college, there were people that showed me how to save, how to fill out college applications, and how to cook.

If you can somehow show a foster teen that you are invested in them, it can make all the difference. As they mature and become more independent, foster teens become more confident and sure of themselves. If foster teens have that mindset when they are getting ready to exit out of care, they are more likely to thrive on their own when they finally leave care.

I've always been fascinated by people who are consistently successful at what they do; especially those who experience repeated success in many areas of their life throughout their lifetime. In entertainment, I think of Clint Eastwood and Oprah Winfrey. In business, I think of Steve Jobs and Warren Buffett. We all have our own examples of super successful people like these who we admire. But how do they do it?

Over the years I've studied the lives of numerous successful people. I've read their books, watched their interviews, researched them online, etc. And I've learned that most of them were not born into success; they simply did, and continue to do, things that help them realize their full potential. Here are twelve things they do differently that the rest of us can easily emulate.

Post written by: Marc Chernoff from www.marcandangel.com



Upcoming Events

August:

- 1—WAYCUP Meeting 530pm –7pm
- 8—Inspirational Youth of Pahrump Meeting 430pm-630pm
- 15—WAYCUP Meeting 530pm-7pm
- 20—FAAYT Meeting 4pm-6pm
- 22—Nevada Life Teleconference 430pm-6pm**
- 31—Carson City FAME Meeting 11am-1pm



September:



- Labor Day Holiday—2
- WAYCUP Meeting 530pm –7pm—5
- Inspirational Youth of Pahrump Meeting 430pm-630pm—12
- FAAYT Meeting 4pm-6pm—17
- Inspirational Youth of Pahrump Meeting 430pm-630pm—19
- WAYCUP Meeting 530pm –7pm—26
- Carson City FAME Meeting 11am-1pm—28

October:

- 3—WAYCUP Meeting 530pm –7pm
- 10—Inspirational Youth of Pahrump Meeting 430pm-630pm
- 15—FAAYT Meeting 4pm-6pm
- 17—WAYCUP Meeting 530pm –7pm
- 24—Inspirational Youth of Pahrump Meeting 430pm-630pm
- 25—Nevada Day Holiday
- 26—Carson City FAME Meeting 11am-1pm
- TBD—Face to Face Nevada Life Meeting**



Do you want to be featured in the Youth Spotlight page? Do you have any upcoming events that you would like posted to the Nevada Life Facebook Page, The Advisory Newsletter and the Nevada LIFE Calendar? Do you have any photos from our YAB events?

If you do, please send in your article, blog, essay, photo, art piece, poem, event information, all photos and any comments or questions to IL@dcfs.nv.gov

For more information about Independent Living please go to the State of Nevada DCFS Independent Living website at http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_IndependentLiving.htm