

The Advisory

A Youth Voice of Empowerment Making a Difference

Nevada LIFE YAB Newsletter; Winter 2013

A Note from our President

The Youth Advisory Board face to face in October was filled with Halloween greatness. The face to face was held in Pahrump and from the moment that everyone walked in the door excitement flourished. All of the Y.A.B. members were split up into teams to get everyone to meet new people. Throughout the conference there were a ton of team building

activities and fun games. Some of the games played involved separating a giant bag of skittles by color, trying to get noodles on a spaghetti stick with using only your mouth, and bouncing a pencil into a cup. A memorable activity was in which one member of your team had to be blindfolded and coaxed across the room by the other team members to

eat a doughnut. A great lesson that I took from it is that at times in life you may need others to guide you through a problem or hardship that you may be facing. All in all it was a great conference and many thanks to Pahrump for hosting it.

~N.M.

CC Fame attends San Diego Surf Camp

CC FAME is an organization for foster youth guidance in the greater Carson City area. In August of 2013 seven former foster youth and staff were able to attend the Urban Surf Camp 4 Kids in San Diego. Activities included boogie boarding on the boardwalk at the Wave House, learning to surf with professional surfers, a week long camping trip, and ending with feeding the homeless. Urban Surf Camp 4 kids is a year-round program that provides positive activities for foster youth in and out of care. This annual event brings foster youth together from all over California and Nevada. They also do paddle boarding and we were able to attend a concert on the beach as VIPs. A guest speaker that was a former foster youth spoke after we fed the homeless to inspire foster youth to make goals and succeed in life. Hope to see you all there next year.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

CARSON CITY:

Carson City FAME

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Ron Wood FRC

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ELKO

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FALLON

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LAS VEGAS: Foster And
Adopted Youth Together—
FAAYT

Amber R. Hogan,

SAFY of Nevada

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PAHRUMP: Inspirational
Youth of Pahrump—IYP

Kerry Shilling

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RENO: Washoe Advocates
for Youth Council Uplift
Program—WAYCUP

Cynthia Carstairs

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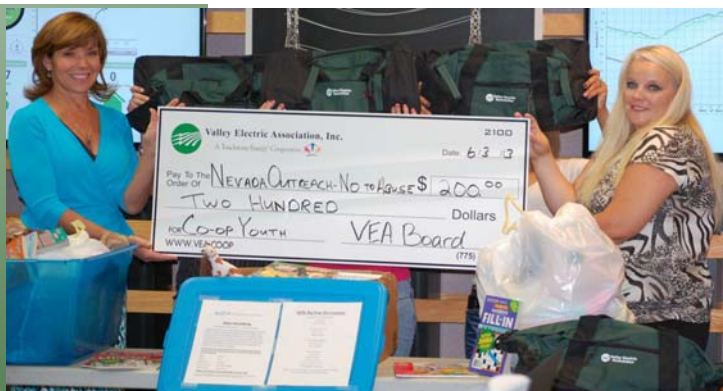
ccarstairs@childrenscabinet.org



Inspirational Youth of Pahrump

We have recently done the duffle bag drive, where we received 75 duffle bags and filled them with stuffed animals, books and essentials. After we packed them we donated them to the local DCFS office. Although the event was held in May 2013, we are still receiving duffle bags and supplies.

We hosted the October 2013 Face to Face meeting at Treasures RV Resort in Pahrump. We gathered donations from local businesses and individuals for the event. The day before was spent decorating our Halloween themed room and arranging games and prizes.



WAYCUP



FAAYT

For three years now, Washoe County has applied for money from a local donor for move out kits. This year we are hoping to do the same again and make them available to foster youth transitioning out of foster care. The move out kits are filled with items like toiletries, home goods and kitchen basics that anyone would need when moving out. Hopefully they appreciate those little things when they find themselves out on their own.

As for staying active in the community, WAYCUP is participating in its fifth annual Santa Gram fundraiser. Santa Gram's are sold at Washoe County Department of Social Services and the Children's Cabinet and WAYCUP puts the grams together and distributes them out.

“Mrs. Rowell also reminded the youth that they have self worth and deserve to have the good things in life.”

The Casey Foundation held a private dinner for FCAA and FAAYT members. The special guest was Victoria Rowell from the soap opera “The Young and the Restless”. Youth were en-

couraged and inspired by Mrs. Rowell because she came from foster care to fame. Victoria is a youth advocate, who inspired, motivated, encouraged and left words of wisdom with the

youth. During this special event, current foster youth and foster alumni were able to mingle with each other and

share their stories with Mrs. Rowell. Mrs. Rowell also reminded the youth that they have self worth and deserve to have the good things in life.



2014 YAB Member Wishes and Quotes

- I hope that all of you turning 18 go to wonderful places and I hope you all find yourselves.
- I wish for the counties to get more involved with each other in the YAB community.—WG
- Laughter reduces stress, relieves pain, strengthens the immune system, kills cancer cells and protects the heart. So find something to laugh about.
- “In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers” ~ Fred Rogers
- You can never finish a book if you don’t turn the page—BT
- Get off probation. ~JY
- Be out of foster care soon after I’m 16 ~ JP

“When it’s cold outside, show the world the warmth of your smile” ~Rascal Flatts

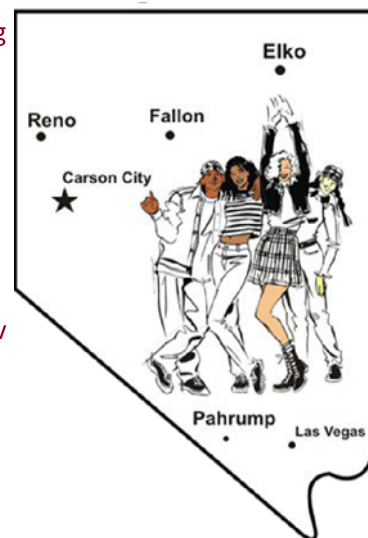
- “You laugh at me because I’m different, I laugh at you because you’re all the same” ~HR
- “I hope that in 2014, I will become a better foster youth advocate, travel to Northern Europe, become an expert in my field and become more healthy as a person -OH
- I wish that everything goes well. I hope I get to graduate early as planned and get a job. ~TD
- I wish for healthy lives for everyone and happiness for all those who seek it. ~NM
- I wish to celebrate every holiday with my brother. ~RM
- I wish everyone who never had nothing, find a why to get something. ~GH
- Next year I hope and wish all of my foster youth are happier, healthy and more independent! ~Joyce B.
- People come and people go, it’s a part of life. Don’t allow the people who leave bring you down. Let it make you stronger. Remember you’re never alone. ~CG
- I hope that my mom goes to my graduation ~ SW
- I plan on moving to Oregon and go to Oregon State.
YAY! I get to be a DUCK! ~ CT
- I’m planning on finishing high school. ~ MT
- I hope to move to Reno—CC
- I hope to be a varsity basketball player. ~RA





CONTEST

We are looking to revamp the NV LIFE Logo. If you want to design a new logo please submit it to IL@dcfs.nv.gov by January 1st and the one with the most votes on our NV LIFE Facebook page will win.



Do you want to be featured in the Newsletter? 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>

WINTER CROSSWORD



Across

- Time off from school or work.
- Used to decorate a Christmas tree.
- It's a season for giving _____.
- Holiday celebrated on January 1st.
- Strap them on and go downhill on snow.
- I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas.

Down

- Winter sport on frozen water.
- African-American holiday celebrated in the winter.
- Famous Snowman
- Flakes that fall from the sky.
- The month following January.
- Jewish holiday celebrated in December.
- Santa's Helpers

