



The Advisory

A Youth Voice of Empowerment Making a Difference

Nevada LIFE YAB Newsletter; Spring 2014



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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RENO: Washoe Advocates for Youth Council Uplift Program—WAYCUP

A Note From Our President

What can be said about positive changes, one thing that comes to my mind is that is necessary in life to truly be happy. We all have encounter situations in which negativity occurs and the best method of escaping that is making a positive change. One positive change that I have made in my life that has greatly affected my life is going into foster care. Not only did the move into foster care change me into a better person it also taught me key values that will help me throughout my life. A piece of advice that I have taken into my life is that no matter how bad a situation seems there is always a silver lining.

~NM

**DO YOU WANT TO BE
NEVADA'S
NEXT
FOSTERCLUB ALL STAR?**



Nevada will be sponsoring one youth to represent our state as the FosterClub All Star for 2014.

Who are the FosterClub All-Stars? A team of young people age 18- 24 will be selected to serve as summer interns with FosterClub and assist in planning and facilitating Independent Living Teen Conferences and other foster care and child welfare events held throughout the country. Youth will be selected to represent the diversity in foster care experiences, education, current paths (college, employment, job corps, etc.), race & ethnicity and geographical location. All applicants must have spent time in the foster care system. Each will demonstrate leadership potential and ability to connect with peers. This internship is as challenging as it is rewarding. We strongly suggest you read the former All-Stars' blogs on the right of this page in order to get a better understanding of what this internship is like.

What will the All-Stars be doing? This summer, a team of young people from the foster care system will be chosen as FosterClub All-Stars. They will be provided with intensive leadership and public speaking training, and then sent to teen conferences and foster care-related events across the country. In addition to motivating, educating and empowering foster youth across America, the FosterClub All-Star's will raise awareness about the 400,000 children in foster care today and the 29,000 youth who transition from foster care every year, mostly without the support of a permanent and stable family.

Applications are due soon. **Go to fosterclub.com for more information.**

**The 2014-2015 Otto Huth Scholarship
Now Available on the DCFS Website**

GUIDELINES

The scholarship is open to aged out foster youth. The application is available every year on the DCFS website and applications and all attachments are due April 15th.

Check out the policy for age and GPA requirements.

You can reapply for the scholarship for a maximum of 5 years – up to \$40,000!

Potential recipients must:

- Attend a school in Nevada
- Begin their post high school education within 12 months of being awarded the scholarship

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to April 15th
2. Print off a copy of the scholarship application & policy from the DCFS website: http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_IndependentLiving-OtherEd.htm
3. Fill out application & Sign the policy
4. Write 2 essays
5. Get 2 letters of recommendation
6. Send in your application and all attachments

**You can continue your education and Otto
Huth can help!**

YOUTH CREDIT REPORTS

If you are between the ages of 16—18 your worker may have talked to you about receiving a copy of your credit report. In 2011, President Obama signed into Legislation that all youth in foster care ages 16 and older should be getting their credit reports run so that if there is any identity theft or fraud, it can be fixed prior to you exiting care.

It is the agency’s responsibility to help you resolve and issues on your credit reports.

Nevada has been working hard to make sure that we are in compliance with this new law. We have the ability to run credit reports for youth in foster care from the 3 credit reporting agencies: Transunion, Equifax and Experian. Our statewide IL policy has been updated to include this as well.



Make sure you don’t leave care without seeing your credit reports!

If you have any questions about credit reports please talk to your IL case worker, they will be able to tell you about your reports.

To learn more about credit you can check out this website: bettermoneyhabits.com

To see our policy go to: http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_Policies_CW_Chapter0800.htm

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS

The new 2014—2015 ETV application is available to you online. Remember you must reapply every year for ETV and this is a first come first serve program, so there is no deadline to when you can submit your applications.

What do I get?

Up to \$2,500 per semester!!

This can cover the following school related expenses:

- tuition and fees
- room and board
- student loans for current yr.
- books and school supplies
- transportation
- personal computer/supplies
- child care expenses

How do I apply?

The Children’s Cabinet, Inc.
 777 Sinclair St Reno, NV89501
 775-352-8090 1-866-741-3218
 Fax- 775-352-8098
www.childrenscabinet.org

&

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

Am I eligible?

You are, if you meet the following requirements:

- Are in foster care and/or have or will age out of foster care, were adopted from foster care on or after your 16th birthday attend, at least half-time, at an **accredited** school that (as defined by the institution):
 - awards a Bachelor’s degree or not less than a 2-year program that provides credit towards a degree,
 - provides no less than 1-year of training towards gainful employment, or
 - is a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least two years.

Maintain a GPA of 2.0 and/or make satisfactory progress in my educational goals

If you have moved to Nevada for the sole purpose of attending school, you must access ETV funds in your home state.

You are eligible until your 21st birthday if you meet the above criteria. If you are actively participating in the program on/before your 21st birthday, eligibility may continue to the age of 23 provided you meet credit and GPA criteria.

Upcoming Events



- 6—WAYCUP Meeting 530pm –7pm
- 13—Inspirational Youth of Pahrump Meeting 430pm-630pm
- 18—FAAYT Meeting 4pm-6pm
- 20—WAYCUP Meeting 530pm-7pm
- 22—Carson City FAME Meeting | 1am-1pm

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



- 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
- 26—Carson City FAME Meeting | 1am-1pm
- TBA—Nevada Life Teleconference 430pm-6pm**



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