



Connecting Today... Transforming Tomorrow

Foster Care Alumni of America brings together adults who lived in foster care as children. We estimate there are **12 MILLION** of us in the U.S.

As alumni of foster care, we have an expertise about the system that can only be gained the hard way.

We put our experience to work in order to ensure that foster children have the same opportunities and supports as other young people.

1 in 4 of us experience homelessness within one year of leaving foster care. 30% of people who are homeless report having been in foster care.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder rates for alumni double those of war veterans.

30% of us are without health insurance after leaving care, even though we are more likely than the general population to have health concerns.

Only 2-5% of alumni complete college with a B.A. or higher, leading to lower rates of suitable employment and higher rates of public assistance.

Negative adult outcomes for people who have been in foster care are not what any of us want for the children for whom our members—as citizens—have taken parental responsibility.

Please join us in our efforts to help the hundreds of thousands of children who are in the foster care system today.

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As a foster care alumnus, I have always wished that my experience would have been more positive than it was. I want to be involved with the issues and strategies that are being implemented to make a more positive and lasting change.
Xanthe Enos,
Oregon



Funny how one feels when they believe that they are the only person who has felt the pain, the suffering, and the stigmas associated with having been burned by the hot iron brand of foster care. I felt isolated and trapped, all alone and with no one that could really relate to what I was feeling.

I am working now to make connections and to find what had been missing: understanding. I am taking this understanding to change our system in a way that would make future generations of foster youth know that they always have a say in their own lives, and a community to belong to. Alumni are banding together to unite our voices into one and will never be ignored or forgotten again.

Aaron Weaver,
Nebraska



I joined FCAA to lend support to this much needed organization, to connect with others in and from foster care and to support the transformation of this culture of abandonment and isolation to one of encouragement and the ability to overcome all issues and odds.

Julie Palmer-Blackwell,
Illinois

FCAA Accomplishments

Our voice is being heard! This year our alumni have been able to reach over 900 youth who are in foster care. These youth gained valuable insight from our members through in-person trainings that focused on overcoming barriers to find success for life after foster care. Our alumni voice has been requested at 50 events throughout the country. By sharing their stories, our alumni have helped lawmakers and community members understand the impact of foster care on youth.

FCAA has spoken to and trained over 1000 child welfare, education, court, state and federal leaders who care about foster care and adoption issues. By sharing our alumni perspective and experiences we hope to provide a better understanding of the importance of permanency and finding a forever family. Also, the alumni voice had provided strategies and curriculum that help youth navigate through the foster care system quicker to insure better outcomes for our brothers and sister still in care today. Through our Alumni Leadership Institute and Chapters we trained over 200 alumni to share their stories and experiences as key notes speakers, youth advisory boards, focus groups and panels across the National. Currently, FCAA has over 10 chapters with plans to move into four more by 2012.

Our alumni voices provide the best opportunity to impact change within the foster care system.