



FOSTER CARE UNIT UPDATE



MARCH 2010

FOSTER CARE UNIT

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Foster Care Unit holds Art Workshop

The Foster Care Unit, California Youth Connection (CYC), and Free Arts collaborated to put on a one day Art Workshop on February 20th, 2010. The event was held at Panorama High School and was open to all current and former foster youth. Students who attended had the opportunity to work with a professional artist by the name of Gina Armfield. Ms. Armfield worked with

the youth to help them express “what the foster care system means to me”.

Ms. Armfield and other Free Arts volunteers provided canvases and paint, and helped individual students work on their pieces. CYC, an organization run by current and former foster youth, helped coordinate and facilitate the event, and also did a small presentation on their organization. They encouraged the youth to

get involved in CYC, which advocates for foster youth at the state and federal levels. Artwork created by the youth will be displayed at Edelman’s Children’s Court in Los Angeles.



Pictured is a volunteer from Free Arts with one of the student’s artwork.

Foster Youth Support Groups

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Foster Care Unit worked in collaboration with Casey Family Programs and the RAND corporation to implement and evaluate the benefits of an evidence-based school intervention for trauma in foster care youth. The Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) is a skills-based, cognitive – behavioral program for

children to reduce symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety related to violence exposure. As a result, CBITS was implemented in seven schools in local district 3 and 7 which were identified as having a large number of foster youth. This year, based upon lessons learned from conducting CBITS, the Foster Care Unit is currently facilitating support groups in several schools with a focus on self-esteem,

trauma intervention and transition services. Sylmar HS, Audubon MS, Garfield HS, Panorama HS and Gardena HS are among the schools that the Foster Care Unit is collaborating with to run foster youth support groups.



Foster Care Unit Volunteers for Glamour Gowns Event



Glamour Gowns is an event that will take place on March 13th, 2010 that will give away free prom dresses, shoes and accessories to high school aged girls in dependency care. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will put on the event and the LAUSD Foster Care Unit will volunteer to assist with the event for the third consecutive year. The past two years, the Foster Care Unit has assisted with preparation for

the event including sorting dresses, making gift bags, and organizing items such as shoes and accessories. To participate in the event, youth must RSVP in advance with their name, and the name of their County Social Worker (CSW) by calling Joanne at (310) 471-1239 or emailing her at solov@earthlink.net by the deadline on March 10th.

The event details are as follows:

Glamour Gowns Event
March 13th, 2010
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
LA Convention Center
West Hall Meeting
Room
515 A and B
1201 S. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90015

RESOURCES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Hollywood Cinema Production Resources

Free vocational training for careers in the art departments of the entertainment industry for at-risk, underserved youth ages 15 to 25.

www.hollywoodcpr.org

PH: 310-258-0123

California Youth Connection (CYC)

Politically active group of current and former foster youth committed to improving the system.

PH: 800-397-8236

www.calyouthconn.org

L.A Youth Newspaper Foster Youth Writing & Education Project

Welcomes submission from current and former foster and probation youth ages 13-20. \$100 paid to foster youth for articles published in L.A. Youth. Offers summer writing/journalism program.

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

March

Orphan Foundation of America

Amount: \$1500 - \$6000 based on a combination of need and merit

Deadline: March 31, 2010

Eligibility:

1. Foster Care for a least 1 year at the time of their 18th birthday
2. Must be under the age of 25 a the time the application closes
3. Enrolled in or have applied to college or post-secondary training program

Contact: Tina Raheem (800) 950-4673 x102

tinar@orphan.org

April

National Foster Parent

Amount: \$1000 annual renewal for high school seniors

Deadline: March 31, 2010

Eligibility:

1. Foster parent/biological parent or guardian is a member of NFPA
2. Applied to a college, university or vocational school

Contact: (800) 557-5238

info@nfpainc.org

<http://www.nfpainc.org>

For a complete list of foster youth rights, or if you are a foster youth and you feel your rights are not being followed, contact the CA FOSTER YOUTH OMBUDSMAN OFFICE AT 877-846-1602