



The H.O.P.E. Newsletter: Mentor Edition

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2010

Special points of interest:

- Foster Care and NPR: Special Youth in Transition Interview
- New LOGO for H.O.P.E.!
- New Event: Mentor Mixer! (05/18)
- H.O.P.E. Youth chosen as a Foster Club All-Star!
- Match Anniversary: Athena & Danielle Celebrate One Year

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Mentor & Foster Care News

After 18, Foster Kids Face Tough Road Ahead

Neal Conan of NPR speaks up about Youth in Transition and interviews a foster youth on his show, "Talk of the Nation."

Every year, almost 30,000 kids age out of the foster care system after childhoods when many move from house to house and school to school. For most foster kids, the day they turn 18, they're suddenly on their own, responsible to find a place to live, manage their money, their shopping, their clothing, their food and try to continue their education, all when most of their peers still get help from mom and dad.

New research confirms the common-sense conclusion: A lot of former foster kids have a hard time with all of these abrupt changes. They are less likely to find a job, go to college or even find a place to sleep every night.

Less than half of former foster youth are employed at 23, and only six percent have finished college.

(Courtney, Mark E., Dworsky, et al., "Midwest Evaluation of Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Ages 23 and 24," University of Chicago: 2010.)

Youth Board News

The votes have been cast and H.O.P.E. officially has a new logo! The logo was designed by Christopher Nicholson of **Creative Impressions, Inc.** and integrates images and ideas that our youth suggested for the design.

This logo will represent H.O.P.E. not only in all new media publications, but also on



Our new logo!

This is TALK OF THE NATION. I'm Neal Conan and joining me here today in Studio 3A is Jeremy Long, who aged out of the foster care system three years ago, and he is in many ways an exception: now a senior at the University of Northern Colorado, also works with current and former foster youth as a member of the Bridging the Gap Youth Leadership Board in Denver. Jeremy is here to talk about the challenges facing foster kids as they grow up.

Read or hear the whole conversation here:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125729965>

our website which you can check out at www.WeAreHope.net.

A big **THANK YOU!** goes out to Geoff Brandle for his not only helping us find this wonderful artist, but also funding the 30+ design hours that went into making this logo happen! Thanks!



“Most of us cannot give an exact time for learning a particular skill. We just know that somewhere along the way we finally got it.”

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

— Henry Ford



H.O.P.E. at the rock climbing wall
— Finch Field House

Relationships — Skill of the Month: Follow Through... Commitments and Appointments

Young people are still learning to manage their time, and they often do not know how to take an active role in what they do. They usually do not keep calendars, and “sometimes” are forgetful. It’s important to not take this personally. Instead, look for ways to set up appointments and commitments that will be

easy for your mentee to follow. When you model good follow-through, your mentee will begin to count on and trust you more. And, as time goes on, your mentee will become more motivated to follow through on their own by following your example.

Here are some tips to help your mentee with follow-through:

1. Have your mentee make a calendar in which to keep their appointments. Consider having them use a special color highlighter or pen for mentoring activities.
2. Discuss expectations ahead of time. Be clear, and ask for feedback.
3. Try to find ways to help mentees with their scheduling challenges.

Mentor Discount Card: What You Should Know

Mentoring is a volunteer activity that sometimes involves spending a little dough. The Mentor Discount Card (MDC) is intended to help with that while also providing activity ideas for you and your mentee. You should have received a MDC at the start of your match

along with a brochure of the latest businesses that offer us discounts. If you don't have one, contact Missy. Do not forget to identify yourself by presenting your MDC when patronizing these businesses. And please help us by thanking them when you

visit!

Current MDC Businesses:

(see brochure for specifics)

- Daddy O’s Diner**
- Fazoli’s: Midland & Mt. P**
- Midland Roll Arena**
- NCG Cinemas**
- Northern Lanes Recreation**
- Morey Courts**
- Mt. Pleasant ICE Arena**
- Doozie’s Ice Cream Place**
- Max & Emily’s**
- Dragon Express**

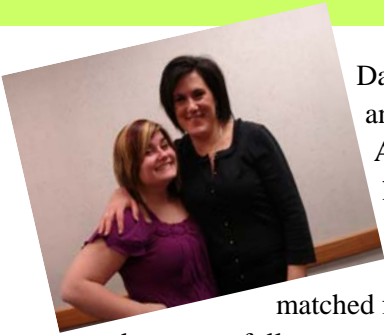
Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--|---|
| 04/20 Youth Board: Goodbye Party/Bridal Shower | 05/18 Mentor Mixer & Youth Board: Election Platforms |
| 05/01 Join Hands Day: Help our youth volunteer dog walking! | 06/01 Youth Board: Elections!! |
| 05/04 Youth Board | 06/05 H.O.P.E. Zany Zone for “Girls on the Run” |
| 05/08 Cherish/YB Field Trip: “Rising Above the Odds” | 06/18 Mentor Mixer & Youth Board: Mentor/Mentee Training |



Contact Missy for times, locations, and details of specific events!

Meet-a-Match: Danielle & Athena



Danielle and Athena have been

matched for

almost one full year—a fact that is obvious from the moment you meet them. They laugh a lot, help each other finish sentences, and both have the ability to carry on several separate conversations at once.

Danielle and her mentor Athena ... One Year Together

When asked what two words best define their match Danielle quickly replied, “Pretty awesome!” and Athena responded, “Love and Joy.”

These two have a lot of great memories together from going to a Loon’s game where Danielle managed to win a baseball through sheer determination and volume, to celebrating Athena’s birthday with

Fondue, to Danielle’s high school graduation.

When asked what the biggest benefits of mentoring are for them, they responded:

“For me, it’s nice to just have someone there. Someone that will show up and be there in your life.” -- Danielle

“When you bring someone into your life like that, not only is it important for them, but it’s also enriching to your own. I’ve learned so much from Danielle.” -- Athena

~Mentor Mixer: New Event!~

There will be a Mentor Mixer event on **Tuesday, May 18th** from **5:30-6:15pm** at **Café American** in the Midland DHS plaza.

This Mixer Event will be held directly before Youth Board happens on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Mentors can meet other mentors, “talk shop”, and enjoy a cup of delicious coffee or green tea.

There will be a brief training session and update from the Mentor Coordinator on new resources for you to use.



Come and meet some other mentors, trade tips and stories, and learn about upcoming mentoring events.

Feel free to either return to DHS and the Youth Board meeting for the night, go home, or to stay and talk for as long as they want.

“Each man is a hero to somebody; and to that person whatever he says has enhanced value.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Foster Club “All-Star”: Marcus Brown

One of our Youth Board members has been chosen from a nationwide search to be a FosterClub All-Star! **Marcus Brown** will be one of just 12 youth chosen to come together to train, educate, and make a difference in the foster care system across America.

These young leaders travel the country speaking up for positive change.

We will sorely miss Marcus as he has been a phenomenal addition to our youth board as both a member and as president. But we look forward to seeing what great things he will do and following him as he blogs about

his experiences—both the trials, successes, and day-to-day endeavors!

Stay tuned for more information on how to follow Marcus as he travels the USA.

Congratulations, Marcus!!!!



Marcus Brown: one of 12 youth chosen to represent foster youth across the nation!



To find out more about “All-Stars” visit: <http://allstars.fosterclub.com/>



Melissa Olgine

Mentor Coordinator
AmeriCorps Member

Department of Human Services

Office: 989-772-8407

Cell: 989-293-3598

E-mail: OlgineM@michigan.gov

"Helping others prepare for everything... through mentoring!"

::Mission::

"The youth of HOPE come together for a common purpose of unity to make a difference in both our lives and in the lives of our community. Creating connections through our dedication to leadership and participation for the common goals of youth transitioning into adulthood."

::Vision::

"Helping lives of youth in everyday improvement, making them successful in transitioning into adulthood. Advocating for positive change through community support, with an emphasis on responsibility, respect, financial security, healthy relationships, and furthering education."



facebook



Name:
MYOI Youth Board:
Helping Others
Prepare for
Everything

Status:
"How lovely to
think that noone
need wait a..."

Fans:
72

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Our cause gets a donation every time you search.

