



GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Facts about Children and Foster Care

The Raw Numbers

- There were 903,089 substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect in 2001 in the United States.
- The number of children in the foster care system on September 30, 2001 was 542,000.
- Of those, approximately 50,000 were adopted out of the foster care system.
- There were still 126,000 children waiting to be adopted at that time. Returning home is not an option for these children and youth.

Other Statistics

- In 2003, families with children accounted for 40% of the overall homeless population in 25 major US cities.
- In 2001, the US Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 47% of the homeless population in the US had aged out of the foster care system.
- In 2001, 13% of Americans ages 18-24 did not get a high school diploma or pass an equivalency test
- An estimated 57% of children in 2001 were reunited with their parents or principal caretaker after an average stay of 12 months in foster care.
- The average stay for all children in foster care in 2001 was 33 months.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Become a Mentor

Open your heart to a youth who is preparing for independence; teach them what you know that will help them become better people and productive members of society. You teach them the skills needed to achieve self-sufficiency. You are also asked to assist the teen in developing a plan for attaining their life goals. Many teens benefit from a continued, positive and permanent relationship with their mentor after they transition out of foster care.

Provide mentoring to youths ages 10 - 18 who are in foster care and have a need for a stable, caring adult in their lives. The mentor helps by serving as a dependable, trusted friend, role model, advisor, motivator, coach and active listener; helps create a network of support for the youth; provides academic assistance; advocates for the youth; works with the child as they transition from placement to placement; provides a stress-free relationship with fun activities; and provides new experiences and learning opportunities.

Sponsor a High School Teen

Help a teen who is completing high school by making a contribution toward prom clothing and tickets; class trips; graduation events and expenses; senior class pictures; school rings and school supplies; yearbooks; gift certificates for clothing and haircuts, eyeglasses or contacts, sports equipment, musical instruments, bicycles; or gift cards.

Sponsor a College Bound Teen

Help a teen who is preparing for college by making a contribution toward college application fees, books and supplies; toiletries; telephone calling cards; dorm essentials; care packages; gas or public transportation fare cards; and other gift cards. Teens also need assistance with completing applications, financial aid forms, visits to college campuses, and a place to go "home" to during school breaks.

Sponsor a Teen Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Make contributions toward: new household items; small appliances; truck rentals to move their belongings; car repairs and maintenance; and gift cards to purchase clothing, haircuts, groceries, gas, public transportation fare cards and furniture.

Lead a Workshop

Share your lifelong knowledge and skills with teens. Life Skills Groups meet each month to teach teens about money management, time management, budgeting, personal safety, household maintenance, automobile maintenance, communication skills, dating violence, healthy eating and cooking, anger management, college preparation, the legal system, their rights and responsibilities, career exploration and job readiness.

MORE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Provide tutoring assistance, SAT or GED test preparation.
- Provide a job shadowing experience to help them learn about the work environment.
- Help teens learn about computers and commonly used computer software applications.
- Conduct a tour of a community facility, business or factory.
- Provide space for meetings, trainings, special events.
- Provide storage space for donated items and training supplies.
- Provide employment or volunteer opportunities.
- Donate tickets to events and activities such as sports, entertainment, social functions, arts and cultural, bowling, skating, fairs, festivals, movies, museums, parks and recreation centers.
- Donate advertising space in newspapers, newsletters, on the radio and television.
- Donate items for life books – cameras, film, scrapbooks and supplies, film processing and tools.
- Donate food/snacks for training events.
- Volunteer your time at a special event, training, career fair or other group event.
- Help the youth celebrate a birthday or holiday by donating gifts or gift cards.

WHEN MAKING A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The check should be made out to: **LivvyLove Foundation**

Checks can be mailed to: LivvyLove Foundation

P.O Box 220782

Chantilly, VA 20153

**You may also make your donation through our secure website at
www.livvylovefoundation.org**

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact the Marketing/Program coordinator at 703-542-6227