

**Fostering Bright Futures:
Navigating the Course with
Former Foster Youth**

presented by:



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Questions That Need Answers

When you think of foster youth, what do you think of?

Do you see them as college students?

Do you envision them mostly belonging to a certain race/ethnicity?

Do think they can all be helped with similar solutions?




STATISTICS



Foster Care Statistics

2018 Texas Foster Care Statistics 2020 Demographics of Children & Youth in Foster Care 2019 Permanency Goals for Children in Care
2019 Average Time in Care by

 Pathways Youth & Family Services

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
SYSTEM RESOURCES:
HOW WE SUPPORT

IDENTIFY YOUR CAMPUS FOSTER CARE LIAISON

Systemwide: Each campus has a foster care liaison

Main Campus: Dr. Raven Jones Director

UHCL: Ms. Kristi Randolph-Simon

UHD: Ms. Ceshia Love

UHV: Ms. Sarah Thurmond

FOOD INSECURITY

Systemwide: Each campus has a food pantry

Main Campus: Cougar Cupboard

UHCL: Hawk Pantry

UHD: UHD Student Food Pantry

UHV: JP's Markey Food Pantry

TEXAS DFPS STATE COLLEGE TUITION WAIVER AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV)

Systemwide: Each campus accepts the state waiver and ETV

Main Campus: Student Business Services

UHCL: Office of Student Financial Aid

UHD: Student Business Services

UHV: Student Billing

HOUSING

Supervised Independent Living (SIL)

is a voluntary Extended Foster Care placement where young adults live on their own, while still getting casework and support services to help them become independent and self-sufficient.

Currently the UHS does not offer this option.



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

DFPS protects the unprotected - children, elderly, and people with disabilities - from abuse, neglect, and

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

TEXAS YOUTH CONNECTION

Connect. Persevere. Succeed.



Confidence
Ambition
EFFORT
ACCOMPLISHMENT



Texas Youth Connection

Texas Youth Connection is for current and former foster youth that were part of Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) www.TexasYouthConnection.org

 Texas Youth Connection

**HOW DO WE IDENTIFY
FORMER FOSTER YOUTH**

Office of Admissions

Use of recruitment specialists to identify target territories that show trends of former foster youth

Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid

Can run query of FAFSA applications and identify students who reported FC, HL, UM

UPDATE WEBSITES!

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

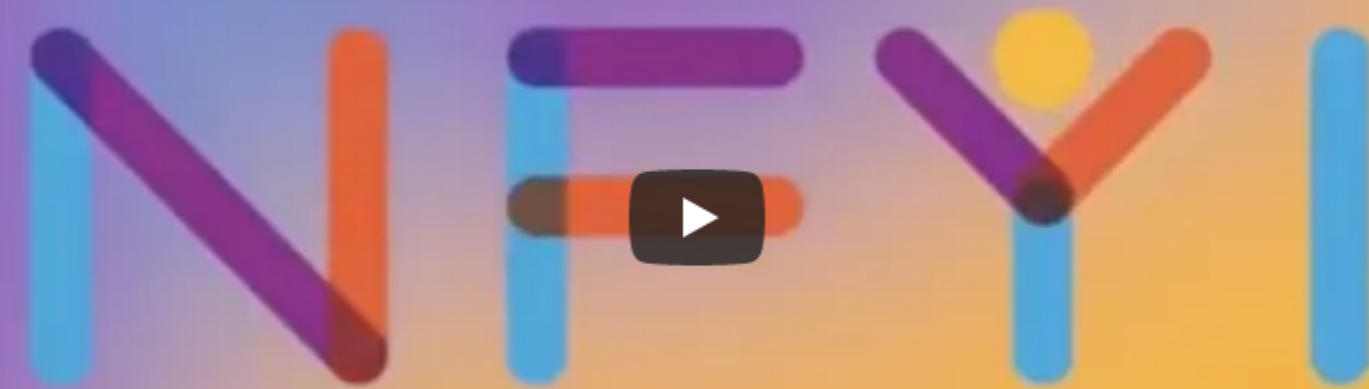
DO SAY/ DISCUSS

**Former foster youth
foster care alumni
youth formerly in care
STUDENT
build rapport and trust**

AVOID

**Orphan
foster kid
traumatic experiences
threats to housing, food,
money
no follow through/up**

BETTER PRACTICES POST COVID



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

keep in contact

develop relationships

set high expectations

connect to resources

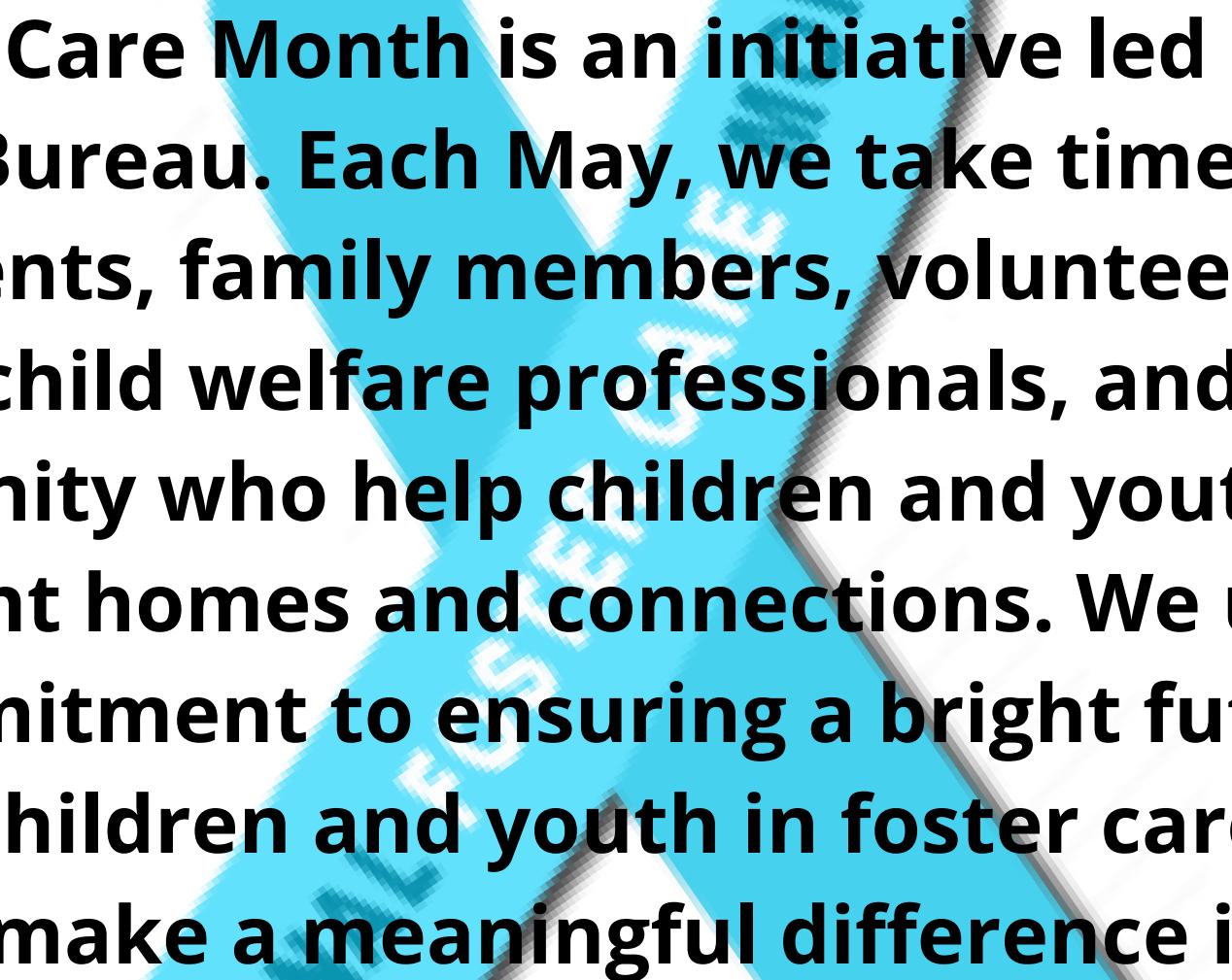
be a cheerleader

listen

be understanding

support

respond to emails



National Foster Care Month is an initiative led and promoted by the Children's Bureau. Each May, we take time to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. We use this time to renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 423,000 children and youth in foster care and celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.



**"If we can get
them here, they
can go
anywhere."**



THANK

YOU