

IMPACTING LIVES

In 2015, FFC served 625 children and young adults, granting 1,015 requests for support, representing a 40% increase in youth served compared to 2014.



FOUNDATION FOR
Foster Children

Enhancing the lives of children in foster care through support and advocacy by creating opportunities for a brighter future.



Education+



Enrichment



Mentoring



Emergency Supplies



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Education+ (formerly BEST)

Education+ aims to decrease the academic gap among foster children and to improve academic performance and advancement from one grade to the next. Positive effects from improved academic performance include enhanced **self-esteem**, **increased motivation**, **participation in extra-curricular activities**, and **decreased behavioral issues** commonly associated with foster children. The long-term positive effects from these goals include an increase in **high school graduation rates**, **matriculation into college or vocational programs**, and **gainful employment and self-sufficiency**.

The Foundation for Foster Children continuously researches educational practices in foster care programs across the country to enhance our current model. We are excited to incorporate a proven component of success to the **Education+** program in the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to one-on-one tutoring, foster children will work with a personal, academic advocate, providing a second tier of support monitoring success and facilitating the necessary changes to improve educational outcomes – a goal the Foundation is determined to reach for each and every child in foster care.



Educational Advocacy for Austin

Before being removed from an abusive home, 17-year-old Austin thought that hopes and dreams were for other children, not him.

Like many foster children, Austin lagged behind his peers in school. Through FFC's Education+ program, Austin's academic challenges were immediately addressed. One-on-one tutoring and collaborative communication between the school, tutor, and the FFC Education Manager ensured a positive outcome. Austin's GPA improved from a 1.57 to a 3.0.

Today, Austin is involved in sports, has lots of friends, and is trying to decide on a career path. In combination with his educational support, FFC makes sure that Austin has access to equipment and athletic instruction to participate in team sports so that when he enters Boone High School this fall as a senior, he will be prepared to meet the academic demands and will graduate on time with his peers.

"I can finally do something with my life. The things I figure out that I want to do career-wise, I'll be able to pursue. I have the choice to decide."

For the first time, Austin knows how to use his voice to get what he needs and FFC is making sure that everyone is listening.



Fostering Success for Zoe

According to her foster mother, 5-year-old Zoe has a lot of energy. To encourage her enthusiasm for all things active and to help with poor muscle tone, FFC has provided funding for her to take lessons in swimming, dance, soccer and gymnastics. Gymnastics is much more enjoyable to a 5-year-old than traditional muscle rehabilitation and serves another purpose: to build confidence in herself.

Zoe's favorite activity is swimming and she enjoys jumping into the water from the edge of the pool. ***"It makes me laugh and laugh!"***

Her foster mother envisions Zoe putting her big heart and nurturing tendencies to use in the medical field. With her positive attitude and support from FFC, her future looks bright!



Shawntia Transitions to Adulthood

Young adults transitioning out of foster care are often unprepared for independent living. Without the unconditional support of a family, it can be difficult to avoid outcomes common to so many other foster youth such as unemployment, incarceration or homelessness.

When Shawntia began her post-secondary education in 2013, FFC was there to fulfill her request for a laptop computer to study. Since then, we have connected her with a caring mentor through our **LIFEGUIDES** mentoring program; provided the funding for driving lessons and her learner's permit; scrubs for her school

uniform; a matching grant to purchase her first car; the cap and gown for her graduation from Winter Park Tech; and the security deposit for her new apartment. Knowing she could count on FFC to support her, Shawntia has been able to build the foundation for a successful adult life. In her own words,

"I can't explain how humble and grateful I am for having you all in my life. I promise to make you guys proud. Thanks for paving my way. You all are my heroes."