



FOUNDATION FOR
Foster Children

Foundation *for* Foster Children

B.E.S.T Initiative



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- The Foundation for Foster Children is a 501 c (3) formed in 2007 to focus on the normalcy and educational needs of children in foster care.
- The organization's mission is to enrich the lives of children placed in foster care due to abuse and neglect by providing opportunities that nurture their ability to succeed both as individuals and contributing members of our community.



Foundation's

Michelle Chira-Carlton, *President*

Laura Eidson-Cosgrove, *Vice President*

Lara Lee, *Treasurer*

Leigh Ann Horton, *Director*

Layne Fess, *Director*

Alana Brenner

Kelly Carline

Sandy Hostetter

Cindi Kopelman

Amy Lee

Andrea Rosser

Evelyn Wilson



Normalcy Activities include:



Fostering Success Grants



*Housewarming Baskets &
Home Visitors Program*



Birthday Club



Emergency Duffels



Be Cool – Summer event



of



To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the basketball funds very much! I got awesome Nikes, and a cool ocoee basketball Sweatsuit that I can wear anywhere! ☺ Pretty awesome!! Again, thanks very much for the funds, theyre highly appreciated. ☺

Sincerely,

Carmen

1/20/11

P.S. I play at least 10 minutes per game ☺
-practice is everyday (well at least almost everyday)

P.S.S. Youre welcome to come to any of my games at ocoee High. ☺



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- In 2010, the FFC Board began to focus on educational advocacy. Board members researched best practices and pulled together a team of individuals to help identify the best use of resources toward this goal.



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- Partners at the table included:
 - Community Based Care of Central Florida (CBCCF)
 - Intervention Services, Inc. (ISI)
 - The Department of children and Families (DCF)
 - CMOs(Case management organizations)
 - Guardian ad Litem programs
 - Orange County Public Schools
 - 9th Circuit and 18th Circuit courts – including judges and magistrates



- Some of the findings included:
 - 70% of foster children leave high school without a diploma
 - Only 3% will earn a college degree by age 25
 - Many of the Community Partners in the tri-county area had never spoken with each other about their mutual educational goals for children in licensed foster care



he \esult –

B.E.S.T. - Building Educational Success Together

is a 12 month pilot program which will provide funding for in-home tutoring for children in licensed foster care in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties in the 3rd and 6th grade who are currently performing below grade level.



- 36 children from the 3 county area have been identified as eligible.
- Enrolled children will be matched with tutors who will meet with them twice a week.
- Their progress will be tracked through report cards and by standardized testing in class and by periodic evaluation by their tutors.
- Goal is 75% of enrolled children will obtain and maintain a minimum of C average and receive a 2 on FCAT as of June 2012.



- In August 2012, FFC will review the program's success based on outcomes and determine whether to establish a recurring program to assist this population.
- Once the enrolled child achieves grade level, FFC will transition the child into a second tier of participation including contact and support through other Fostering Success Grant program opportunities.



- Advocacy/local policy change to improve the educational outcomes for children in licensed foster care.
- Increase collaboration between local agencies.
- Ensure all children in licensed foster care performing below grade level receive tutoring.
- Expand educational programming to include academic and vocational tracks for self-sufficiency and success after aging-out.



- Based on 2 hours per week of tutoring, the BEST initiative is estimated to cost approximately \$ 150,000.



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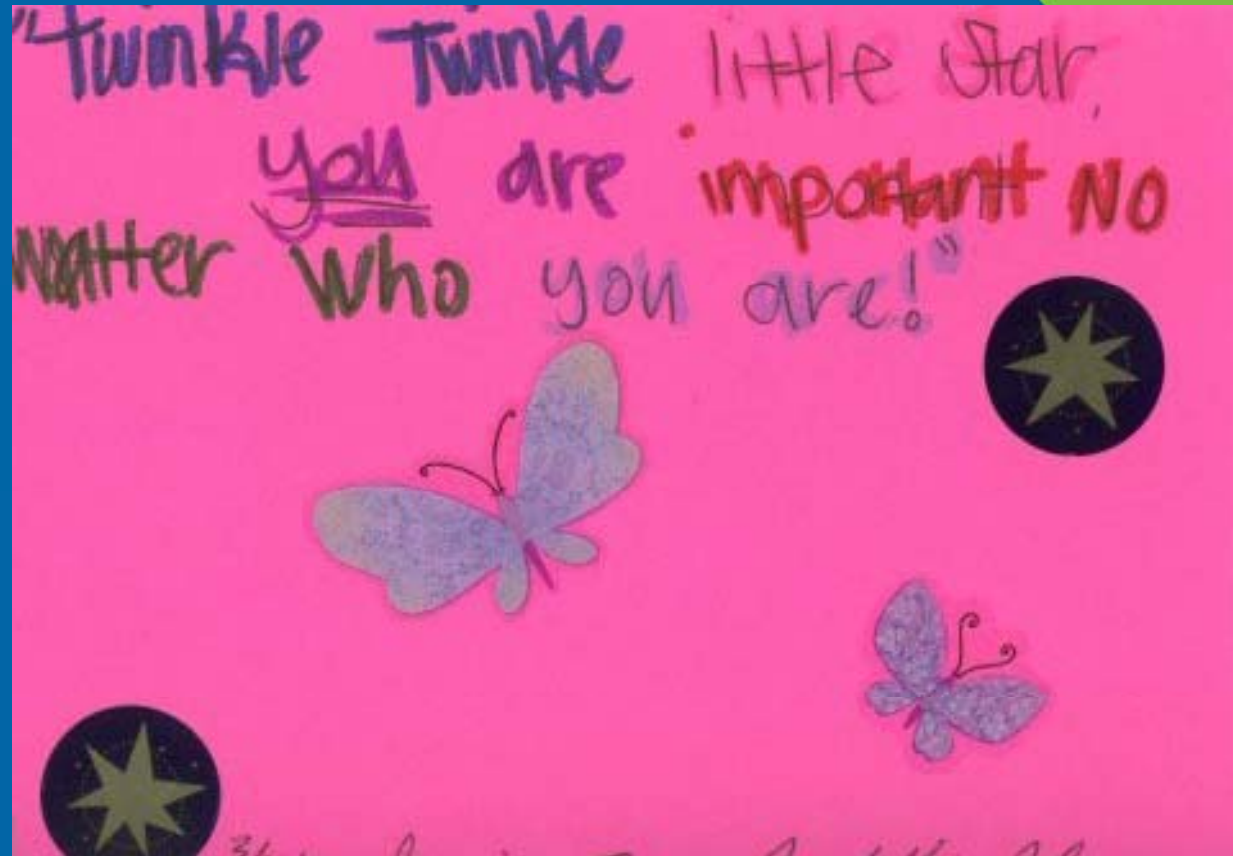
- Numerous studies have shown that there is a correlation between children in foster care and homelessness.
- 15 to 22% of youth experience homelessness within one year of aging out of care.
- Many others, while not living in a shelter, are unstably housed and moving from place to place.



- A 2007 study in the Midwest found that 53% of foster youth were characterized as either homeless or unstably housed within 18 months of aging out of care.
- Evidence of a childhood history of foster care in homeless adults has emerged with statistics ranging from 19.6% to as high as 38.6%.
- By helping us prevent these foster children from becoming homeless, we can begin to shut down this path into homelessness.



by a



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for



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