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People I can relate to on the deepest levels.

I found a mentor, that's something new for me.



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this was the most influential event in my adult life.

About this resource guide

As more than 90 of us smile up at the camera, embracing and celebrating, we are overwhelmed with a feeling of kinship. The photo on the front cover was taken on July 30, 2005 at the end of the Better Together Alumni Summit. For some of us, who had known each other for years, the summit was a chance to reconnect. For some who had never met, it was a time of discovery. For all of us, it was a family reunion—the opportunity to gather with our brothers and sisters from foster care and to build our capacity to support one another and those who come after us in the child welfare system.

Sponsored by Casey Family Programs and supported by Foster Care Alumni of America, the Alumni Summit was designed and led by alumni of the foster care system. The summit brought together 100 alumni leaders and our closest allies from all over the United States. This was an exciting opportunity to share knowledge, build leadership skills, network with each other, and further the alumni movement in communities across the country.

Throughout this booklet are photos and quotes drawn from the summit as well as from the last six years of the growing alumni movement.

This booklet is intended for alumni, child welfare staff, foster/adoptive/kinship caregivers, and other allies for the purposes of:

- Celebrating the accomplishments and efforts of alumni and alumni groups across the country on behalf of youth in care
- Providing context that unifies our many efforts into the larger alumni movement
- Sharing resource information for starting and maintaining alumni groups providers and professionals, and public speaking
- Sharing the lessons we've learned so far about how to both connect with each other and take action to transform the system for those who come after us

The title of this booklet has two parts: *Better Together* and *Connecting Today...Transforming Tomorrow*. *Better Together* refers to our philosophy of meaningful and effective partnerships between alumni and allies in working toward improvements in foster care. *Connecting Today...Transforming Tomorrow* is both the tagline for Foster Care Alumni of America and our vision for how the alumni movement operates to change the world.

Thank you for your part in the alumni movement. Know that there is a place for you in the smiles and embraces of our family portraits.

Alumni Movement Growing association of foster care alumni and allies organized to positively influence the quality of life of people in and from foster care.

Alumni of Foster Care Adults who spent time in foster care as children or youth.

Alumnus/Alumna An individual who spent time in foster care as a child or youth (alumnus—male, alumna—female).

Allies Child welfare professionals and friends of foster care who work with alumni to achieve a shared mission.

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As alumni and allies, we have learned that when we organize and work together, our voices are powerful. We have seen the impact of our efforts in changing foster care practice and policy, in increasing resources available to people in and from foster care, and in building a national community of alumni who want to use our experiences and expertise to make a difference. We have also learned that just as all social movements face difficulties, the alumni movement faces predictable challenges and struggles as well. This booklet is intended to help you embrace those struggles, learn to take positive action, remember to celebrate, and maintain your passion and inspiration.

Sharing ideas and experiences.



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Once upon a time:

claiming our legacy and creating a movement...

The first phase of the national alumni movement came in 1999 when Casey Family Programs began extensive interviews with 1800 alumni of the foster care system from across the country for the National Alumni Study. As researchers talked with alumni, they heard over and over “I want to DO SOMETHING to improve foster care. How can I get involved?” Recognizing that alumni brought passion, insight, and expertise that could only be gained by living in foster care, Casey Family Programs created the Alumni Relations department in 2000.

During its first two years, the Alumni Relations department made connections with 1400 alumni from all over the United States. The department found that alumni were active in work on behalf of their brothers and sisters in and from foster care in various ways:

- Many were foster parents, kinship caregivers, and adoptive parents.
- Many were social workers, researchers, legal professionals, and advocates.
- Alumni were participating in foster care program development, legislative advocacy, training for care providers and professionals, and speaking publicly about their experiences.

With support from Casey, alumni began to meet one another and work together. From our first meetings, we found incredible strength in each other—a feeling of belonging and kinship that so many of us had grown up without ever knowing. We discovered that we share a culture—the culture of foster care—that gives us an understanding of each other across the ages, across geography, across ethnicities. Our shared culture and experiences form the basis for a community of alumni with a common voice. Bringing together efforts of individual alumni, the alumni movement was born!

As the alumni movement came to life, we identified two overriding needs:

- 1 To create an organized, supportive, and independent community where our shared culture was celebrated and our shared agenda to improve the lives of people in and from foster care could be developed and put into action.
- 2 To build our skills, knowledge base, resources, and energy as a group that enables us to be powerful and build meaningful and effective partnerships with each other and with our allies who share our mission.

Casey Family Programs listened to our voices and responded to our needs. In 2002, the Better Together philosophy was developed and put into practice across the organization. In 2004, Casey made a significant investment in the alumni movement by generously supporting the creation of Foster Care Alumni of America.

We are at a momentous place with the alumni movement. Alumni who have been working in isolation are finding one another, and our voices are joining together with our allies to effect real change. In Casey Family Programs, we have a model and a leader for bringing the expertise of alumni to the forefront. In Foster Care Alumni of America, we now have the independent organization we’ve dreamed of, and we continue to become more integrated in the planning and decision-making at all levels of the foster care system throughout the United States. So many have contributed to this moment, and we offer heartfelt thanks for their pioneering efforts. We are just beginning the real work, and we are so glad to say we’re all in this together. Welcome home.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world.

Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

A dream realized

We are pleased to announce the launch of the first national, independent, nonprofit organization created and led by alumni. Foster Care Alumni of America joins the voices and expertise of the estimated 12 million adults who are alumni of foster care in the United States. Together with our allies, we improve the quality of the foster care experience for those who come after us and improve the quality of life for all of us.

Foster Care Alumni of America ensures high quality of life of those in and from foster care through the collective voice of alumni.

As the alumni movement has grown, we’ve discovered that alumni want two primary things from the national organization: the ability to connect with one another and opportunities to make our voices heard in transforming the foster care system.

CONNECT TODAY

Foster Care Alumni of America connects strong, diverse, passionate individual alumni into a strong, diverse, passionate alumni community. We provide opportunities to learn from and support each other, to celebrate our successes, and navigate our challenges together. We build our alumni community through FCAA by providing information, tools, and support for local and national organizing efforts. We create avenues of connection where there is a place for all alumni, where isolation no longer has to be a hallmark of our culture. By sharing our experiences, our knowledge, our dreams and our energy, and by joining with allies who share our values, we are able to find meaningful ways to embrace and use the expertise we each possess. Members of FCAA continually drive our organizational mission and agenda.

TRANSFORM TOMORROW

Foster Care Alumni of America holds the philosophy that there should be nothing about us without us. We believe that alumni perspectives about policy and practice should have a direct impact on current approaches in the foster care system. FCAA ensures that people who share the foster care experience become a powerful, collective voice of change for both individual foster youth and systems of care. By working with our members, both alumni and our allies, we are making a real difference. Please join us.

Please join FCAA at www.fostercarealumni.org or by calling 1.888.ALUMNI.0

Alumni in action

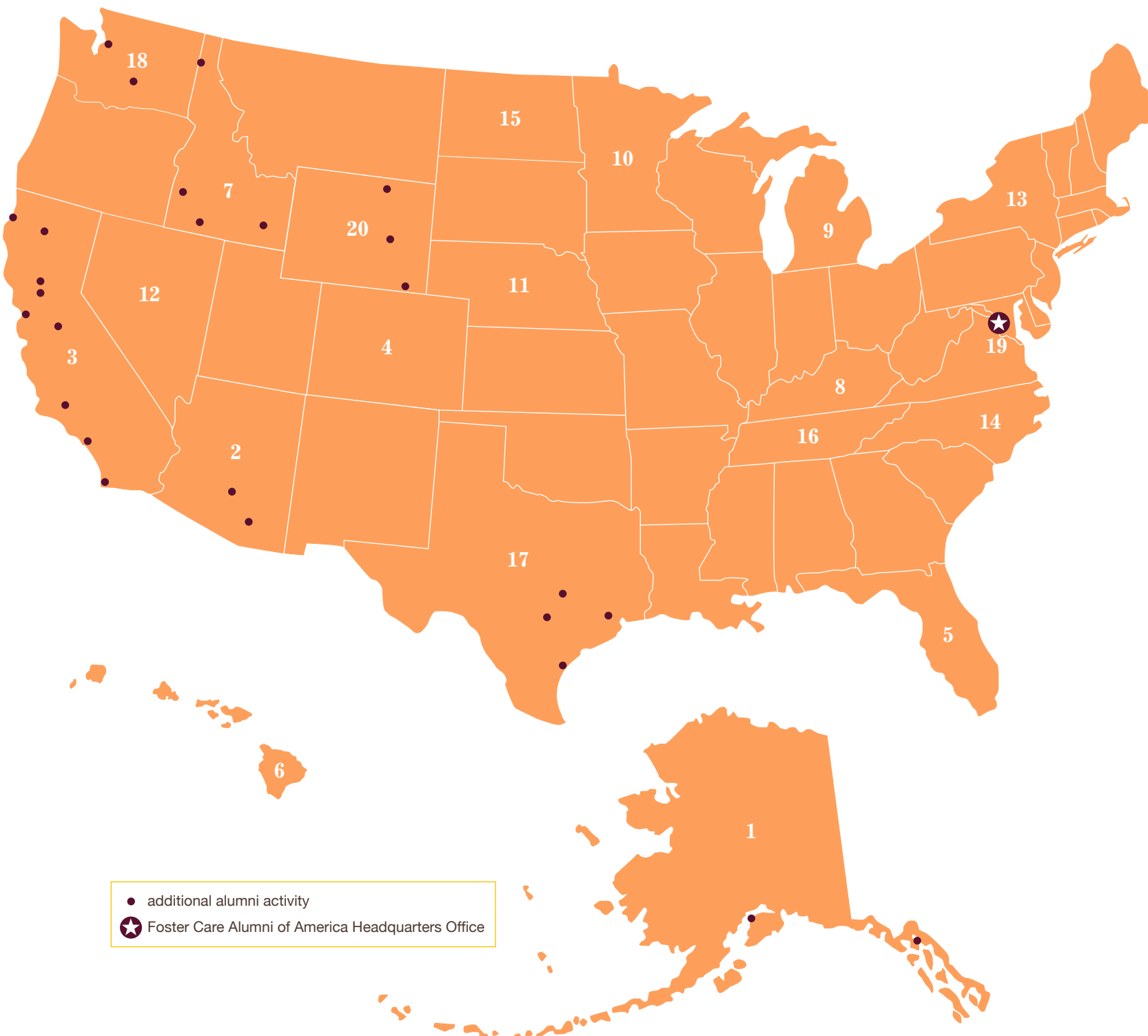
These are a few highlights of the alumni movement. The work of alumni has been progressing for many years, and we are just now starting to connect the dots of our separate efforts. We have already accomplished so much, but, as you know, we still have so much left to do. It's time to look to one another for inspiration, to share the lessons we've learned, and to join our voices. Stay tuned to www.fostercarealumni.org to watch the growth of the alumni movement and tell us about what you're doing in your community.



We can work together for larger goals.

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- 1 ALASKA** Facing Foster Care Alaska provides support and education to youth in care, alumni, social workers, and other allies by sharing the experience and expertise of youth and alumni age 15–24. FFCA's areas of focus include advocating for educational opportunities and advocating for the rights of youth and alumni.
- 2 ARIZONA** In My Shoes, a nonprofit organization founded by alumni, connects alumni with youth currently in care to form mentoring relationships. IMS is also involved in supporting local and statewide youth and alumni groups as well as in advocacy and education efforts.
- 3 CALIFORNIA** California Youth Connection is a statewide foster youth empowerment and advocacy organization that is guided, focused and driven by current and former foster youth ages 14–24. CYC promotes policy development and legislative change at the local and state-wide levels.
- 4 COLORADO** Camp To Belong, founded by an alumna, is dedicated to reuniting brothers and sisters placed separately. Flagship events are weeklong camps in eight states that bring siblings together. Camp To Belong works year round to increase public awareness and improve policies for keeping siblings together.
- 5 FLORIDA** Alumni are working as guardians ad litem, public speakers, trainers, and volunteers.
- 6 HAWAII** Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition is active in practice and policy advocacy across the state as well as education around foster care and transition issues.
- 7 IDAHO** Foster Youth/Alumni of Idaho advocates to improve foster care and impact public policy. FYI is involved in peer mentoring and training for professionals and foster parents.
- 8 KENTUCKY** Kentucky Youth Connects and Kentucky Organization for Foster Youth enhance the quality of life of people in and from foster care through mentoring, leadership development, providing financial and educational resources, and creating a community for youth and alumni.
- 9 MICHIGAN** Foster Care Alumni Leadership program at Michigan State University supports alumni in becoming effective advocates. An alumnus, who holds a doctorate of education in social work, is researching transition issues.
- 10 MINNESOTA** An alumna, who is also a foster parent and a social worker, provides training for foster/adoptive/kinship caregivers.
- 11 NEBRASKA** NE Foster Youth Initiative and the Governor's Youth Advisory Board worked together to pass a foster care bill of rights for youth in care and are working on a resource book for transitioning youth. Alumni are involved in public speaking and training with foster and adoptive parents and child welfare professionals.
- 12 NEVADA** Mentor Match program matches current foster youth with mentors. Alumni mentors are actively recruited and alumni both inform and staff the program. Other efforts include alumni advocating for extending Medicaid coverage to alumni in transition and keeping siblings together in placement.
- 13 NEW YORK** *Represent* magazine, published bimonthly, is written by youth and alumni from New York and across the country. Social workers, case workers, independent living coordinators, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and other adults who work with teens in the foster care system buy subscriptions to the magazine and offer it free to teens in their programs. Many staff, administrators, and policy-makers also subscribe to the magazine to learn what teens are thinking and feeling. Circulation ranges from 10,000 to 15,000 copies for each issue.
- 14 NORTH CAROLINA** Say So (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out), made up of youth and alumni age 14–24, educates the community, speaks out about needed changes, and provides support to youth in and from substitute care. Say So focuses on higher education for alumni of care.
- 15 NORTH DAKOTA** The Professional Association of Treatment Homes has alumni representation on its board of directors. Alumni are doing volunteer work with local group homes.
- 16 TENNESSEE** Tennessee Youth Advisory Council, made up of foster youth and alumni age 15–24, successfully advocated for a tuition waiver for alumni in TN. Members serve on numerous planning and decision-making teams, and are certified foster parent trainers. The group has secured \$250,000 in college scholarships and is active in advocacy and training at local, state, and national levels.
- 17 TEXAS** Showing New Alumni Positive Success recently started on the campus of Texas A & M-Kingsville. The mission of SNAPS is to provide guidance, friendship, and support for alumni in college.
- 18 WASHINGTON** Greater Seattle Alumni Network joins the voices of youth and alumni to improve the foster care system. Yakima and Columbia Valley alumni are currently working to organize a group.
- 19 WASHINGTON DC** National Foster Youth Advisory Council has created position statements on topics pertinent to the foster care experience including education, permanency, housing, and peer mentoring.
- 20 WYOMING** Wyoming Advocates for Youth consists of youth and alumni age 17–30, who dedicate time, energy, and experiences to create a sense of belonging, friendship, and support. WAY advocates for the prosperity of foster youth and alumni by building hope, changing policies to improve the system, empowering current youth in care, and securing their future. Accomplishments include presenting to the National Hispanic Caucus, training for the Department of Family Services, and participating on the state's Juvenile Court Enhancement Initiative.



Speaking out and supporting children still in care.



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Building and growing alumni groups

You feel inspired, and you want to be involved in a local group that works together to improve the lives of people in and from foster care. What now? Here is some guidance we've collected from alumni:

- Gather as many alumni as you can find to discuss **WHY** you want to start a group.
- Determine your mission and then become obsessed with achieving it. Your mission should be the broadest statement of why you exist. All strategies and activities you devise need to be consistent with your mission.
- Identify **WHO** should be part of your group. Who else shares the values, vision and mission you have identified? Who has the skills, access to resources, knowledge, experience, and other expertise your group needs to achieve its mission? When considering who should qualify for membership, be sure to ask, "How will members' ages and roles affect our ability to achieve our mission—both positively and negatively?"
- Determine **WHAT** activities will lead to your group being successful in achieving its mission.

SOME TIPS FROM GROUPS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEGUN

Be intentional in your decision-making and activities. If your group decides that part of its mission is to provide support for one another, for example, build time into your schedule specifically for that purpose.

Remember that having meetings is not the same thing as accomplishing your goals. Meetings should be a means to an end. Determine the purpose for each meeting and who has leadership responsibility for keeping the meeting on track and determining the next steps. Remember to record all decisions and assignments. You will need the meeting records as you grow over time. Good records will also ensure that everyone understands their roles and that you can hold one another accountable for your group's success.

The first job of being a leader is helping to develop other leaders. If the leaders of your group are the only ones taking action, you are missing opportunities to engage others and benefit from their expertise. There needs to be a place for everyone to make a contribution. Learn what each others' skills and talents are and how best to utilize them.

Don't forget to celebrate! Being part of the alumni movement means putting our hearts into our work, sharing our personal experiences, and giving our time and energy to our cause. While this can be incredibly rewarding, it can also be extremely difficult. Take the time to savor your accomplishments and share them broadly. Your challenges and your successes just might help another group somewhere else.

Partnering for success

WORKING WITH YOUR ALLIES

In determining who needs to be part of your group, it is important to consider the contribution that our allies can make. Allies are people who share our mission to improve foster care and the lives of people in and from care through alumni engagement. Some things to remember when partnering with allies:

- Everyone gets involved for a reason. We all have a story, we all have a history, and we all have expertise. Share these with one another.
- Allies often have access to people, organizations, and funding sources that you may not otherwise be able to connect with. Allies have a great deal of knowledge, skill, and passion to contribute. Allies can help you build your group's capacity and credibility.

Here are some things our allies have had to say about building partnerships with alumni to positively impact the lives of people in and from foster care:

"In my view, supporting the alumni movement is the most important path to powerful, sustainable, long-term systems improvement. It's folks who've been through the system who can be the most effective change agents, but we all need to work together to make it happen."

"You don't have to experience foster care to be an advocate for changes in foster care. In fact, the more allies in the foster care movement, the broader the reach and the louder the voice."

"Alumni have powerful stories; they have a powerful voice. They represent the best hope, the greatest chance for change. By supporting them, by becoming partners in the fight, we have the chance to help bring about desperately needed change."

"If we can truly see it from the alumni perspective, then we will change things."

BARRIERS AND BRIDGES IN BUILDING MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Building meaningful and effective partnerships doesn't always come naturally. There are predictable barriers you will face—this is normal. Plan for the challenges and then enjoy them, knowing you are on the right track.

BARRIERS: Predictable difficulties in partnering

○ **Assumptions—we all make them. What do alumni assume about professionals and caregivers? What assumptions are made about alumni? Unspoken assumptions can destroy your group.**

○ **Lack of energy, follow-through, leadership, motivation or inspiration. Only a few people are doing all of the work.**

○ **Meetings lacking focus often turn into people telling their stories or looking for support.**

BRIDGES: Strategies for overcoming difficulties

○

- Fearlessly identify the assumptions and work together to defy the stereotypes and dispel the myths.
- Be courageous and remember that you are on the same team.

○

- Ensure your mission resonates with the group and that action steps are clearly identified.
- Reach out to individuals and the group. Be curious, ask questions.
- Recognize and celebrate accomplishments.
- Keep excellent notes, including who is accountable for what and when.
- Make leadership development a priority.
- Ensure there is a role for all members.
- Keep your mission at the forefront at all times.

○

- Specifically make opportunities for sharing and support time separate from business meetings.
- Work together to learn about strategic sharing and ways to connect personal experiences to the group's mission.
- Designate leaders at meetings to help keep focused.
- Develop a group agreement of ground rules and a group norm for enforcing these.



Making a difference in your community

41 things your group can do now!

BUILD AND MAINTAIN YOUR ALUMNI GROUP

- 1 Post flyers where alumni will see them (colleges, agencies, library, grocery stores, coffee shops, etc.) alerting people to your group's existence (include meeting time and contact person.)
- 2 Host a group kick off event such as a potluck, barbeque, or pizza party.
- 3 Network with other alumni groups by phone, through the FCAA Web site, and in person to share information and inspiration.
- 4 Meet regularly and always with a clear purpose.
- 5 Archive your groups' successes, learning, and activities to share over time.
- 6 Take turns researching and presenting specific topics at meetings to increase the knowledge of all group members (topic ideas: public speaking, laws governing foster care, transition issues, supporting well-being, etc.).
- 7 Do activities together that encourage sharing and self-expression.
- 8 Organize a conference with other alumni groups where you gather and share your knowledge, challenges, skills, successes, and ideas.

SUPPORT YOUTH CURRENTLY IN CARE AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL FOSTER CARE AGENCIES

- 9 Organize an art supply drive for youth in care.
- 10 Collect grooming items, toys, suitcases for youth in care.
- 11 Sponsor a holiday gift project.
- 12 Host or volunteer at a "sibling day" or "sibling camp" for youth separated from siblings.
- 13 Volunteer at a local group home during group sessions (focused on recreation, skill-building, or other topics).
- 14 Start or join a tutoring project connecting youth in care with alumni tutors.
- 15 Host "college day" for high school juniors and seniors in care to tour campuses and collect information.
- 16 Start or join a mentoring project connecting youth in care with alumni mentors.
- 17 Develop a directory of local resources for youth in care or in transition from care.
- 18 Become "lunch buddies" with a youth in care and meet regularly for lunch at school or home.

- 19 Join foster/adoptive parent recruitment campaigns with local agencies and speak at informational meetings.
- 20 Develop a "foster youth bill of rights" for your state or county and work to have it enacted into legislation, then shared broadly.

SUPPORT ALUMNI WHO LIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- 21 Develop and implement an adopt-an-alumnus project, sponsoring an alumnus soldier stationed overseas or a college student.
- 22 Host an alumni support/networking group.
- 23 Host a resource fair for alumni.
- 24 Develop a directory of resources and networking opportunities for alumni of care.

CONNECT WITH YOUR LARGER COMMUNITY AND BUILD VISIBILITY

- 25 Participate in local volunteer activities as a group:
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Serve dinner at a soup kitchen or shelter
 - Highway, river, or park clean up
 - Meals on Wheels
- 26 Provide training and education:
 - Foster/adoptive parent support group participation
 - Guest speakers in social work classes or training sessions
 - Co-facilitate formal trainings for professionals or foster/adoptive families
 - Participate in and present at local child welfare conferences
- 27 Increase public awareness about foster care issues:
 - Develop relationships with media and notify them of story opportunities
 - Track legislative activities and write letters to representatives and/or media
 - Provide testimony at legislative hearings
 - Implement campaign celebrating people connected to foster care (foster parents, social workers, alumni, youth)
 - Develop traveling exhibit of photos, artwork, and text by/about foster care and alumni, and feature it in public venues



I learned I have a great big family out there.



RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR PROJECTS

- 28 Host an auction that features artwork relevant to your group's mission.
- 29 Select a theme and host a fundraising dinner.
- 30 Develop and present performance art highlighting pertinent issues.
- 31 Recruit phone-a-thon volunteers who are willing to call their friends and family for donations to your group. Hold the event at a business with multiple phone lines.
- 32 Host a lecture series focused on topics of interest to your group.
- 33 Solicit donations or large raffle items from local businesses (check raffle laws in your state).
- 34 Identify community or other foundations that provide grants to similar groups in your geographic location.

CELEBRATE GROUP SUCCESSES

- 35 Share news of your victories in a group newsletter distributed to all members and to people in your community who care about foster care.
- 36 Develop group rituals to mark significant events and milestones.
- 37 Send a press release and hold a press conference to share your success.
- 38 Host a celebration event, inviting group members, allies, and people who benefit from your work.

IDEAS FOR ALLIES TO SUPPORT ALUMNI EFFORTS

- 39 Become an active member of the local group, providing your own expertise and access to resources.
- 40 Provide office space, meeting space, supplies, and equipment.
- 41 Provide meals, transportation, or child care for group meetings.

I was able to share experiences with people that cared.

The connections and a sense of coming home



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Strategic sharing: telling our stories

All of us, alumni and allies, have life stories that contribute to our expertise. We have learned from our own experiences and by bearing witness to the experiences of others. At its best, sharing from personal experience can educate, inspire, and make a real difference. Stories are memorable and compelling; they put a human face on issues, needs, and triumphs. Stories motivate and inspire us to action. Sharing our life stories helps us to make meaning out of our own experiences. Stories engage our imagination and help us see new possibilities. Sharing helps us grow, build relationships, and understand one another's cultures.

Disclosing personal information also carries some risks. Sharing personal experiences can make us vulnerable and may make our listeners uncomfortable. At its worst, sharing our life stories can feel manipulative or exploitative and lead to harmful consequences. Some people are uncomfortable with self-disclosure and will not find your information credible. You may find bringing up certain memories painful.

There will be times when sharing from your experiences can contribute to your effectiveness as an educator, advocate, decision-maker, and group member. Sharing in a strategic way

means making good choices about how we tell our life stories so that our voices can be heard, we are effective, and our well-being is protected.

SOME TIPS ABOUT STRATEGIC SHARING

Prepare for the topics you will be addressing when giving presentations. This should include building your knowledge about the topic in general and how it affects people in and from foster care. This will increase your credibility and will help the audience understand the scope of the issue. Example: "This was a challenge for me and is also a challenge for ____% of youth in care."

Know that you do not have to answer every audience question. Plan ahead for what you will say if an audience member asks something you don't wish to answer. Example: "I'm not comfortable answering that question about my own life, but what I can tell you is that ____% of youth in foster care face that issue."

When sharing from your own experiences at group meetings and with allies, be sure you are still being strategic.

THREE STEPS TO STRATEGIC SHARING

Choose

Choose what you will share and what you will keep private. Ask yourself:
What is my purpose in sharing this information?
Who benefits from this sharing?
What do I want my audience to learn?

Connect

Learn as much as you can about your audience and prepare a way to connect with them as you share. This shows respect for the audience and will guide you in making choices about what parts of your life story to share.

Claim

Claim your own story and your choices. Be explicit in describing:
The reasons you have chosen to share.
The emotions that come up for you as you share.
The meaning and significance your experience has for you.

Words of wisdom

These words of wisdom were collected at the Alumni Summit from alumni and allies who are working in partnerships to improve the lives of people in and from foster care.

Struggles are natural.
We need valleys to know the highs.
Struggles make us stronger.
Everybody has a story.
Everything happens for a reason.
Persevere, keep your focus.
Be open to new ideas and ways to look at things.
Share learning.
Don't forget where we came from and remember where we're going.
Get the greatest diversity possible.
Don't forget who you are.
Be aware of the flavor-of-the-month syndrome.
This is not a competition.
It's your responsibility not to get used.
Lean on the wisdom of others.
Assume good intent.
Choose optimism.
Let go and let the group lead.
Refuel and find peers.
Know when to pass the ball.
Change is opportunity.
There needs to be a place for everyone.
Figure out who you are and be that on purpose.
Embrace the gray areas of life.
Remember that identity is a broad thing.
Connect your own experience to the big picture.
Let it happen—it will!
Get over yourself.
Don't let one person carry the load.
Take time to reflect on the past and be inspired by the future.
Have an amused perspective.
Don't major in the minor.
You can't do anything about the past but you can do lots about the future.

YOUR MEMORY HERE

YOUR MEMORY HERE

MORE WORDS OF WISDOM

The alumni movement is happening and will steadily improve.

Resource and directory list

WHAT YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW

For statistics, check out *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)* at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/dis/afcars/

National Foster Care Awareness Project. (2000). *Frequently asked questions about the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 and the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program*. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs.

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Stanfield, R.B. (2000). *The art of focused conversation: 100 ways to access group wisdom in the workplace*. Gabriola Island, BC, Canada: New Society Publishers.

Khan, Si (1991). *Organizing: A guide for grassroots leaders*. NASW Press. Available through online booksellers.

Wade, John (1992). *Dealing effectively with the media*. Menlo Park, CA

For over 200 books on subject areas such as communication, personal development, mentoring, or goal-setting, check out www.courseilt.com or 1.800.442.7477.

WHO YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW

California Youth Connections www.calyouthconn.org

Camp To Belong www.camtobelong.org

Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks www.fbcyicn.ca

Foster Club www.fosterclub.com

In My Shoes www.inmyshoes.org

Casey Family Programs www.casey.org

National Foster Youth Advisory Council www.nfyac.org

National Youth In Care Network of Canada www.youthincare.ca

Represent Magazine www.youthcomm.org

SaySo (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out) www.saysoinc.org

Tennessee Youth Advisory Council www.tnfosteryouth.org



our brothers and sisters in care need to see us as role models.

Thank you

We'd like to recognize the tireless efforts, the contagious passion, and the long-term commitment of alumni and our allies from across the country. Hundreds of people have contributed time, energy, and expertise to bring us to this point in the alumni movement. Thank you for your relentless focus, your inspiring leadership, and your willingness to let your hearts and hands guide us.

THANKS TO CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Casey Family Programs is the largest national foundation whose sole mission is to provide and improve—and ultimately to prevent the need for—foster care. Established by United Parcel Service (UPS) founder Jim Casey, the Seattle-based foundation has served children, youth, and families in the child welfare system since 1966.

We'd like to thank Casey Family Programs and Casey staff for their generous support, their vision, and their willingness to truly hear the voices of alumni. The efforts of Casey have led to the creation of the Better Together curriculum and philosophy, the founding of Foster Care Alumni of America, the Alumni Summit and other opportunities for alumni and allies to convene, and have made this resource guide possible.



It was nurturing, inspiring, informative, and fantastic.

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Connecting Today...Transforming Tomorrow



Foster Care Alumni of America ensures high quality of life of those in and from foster care through the collective voice of alumni.

www.fostercarealumni.org or 1.888.ALUMNI.0

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266-3160-05