

## What We've Accomplished

The voices and experiences of foster care alumni have been heard in many ways. Listed below are a few examples of our accomplishments.

• **FCAA Alumni Leadership Institute:** The FCAA Alumni Leadership Institute brings alumni from all parts of the country together to build the skills and knowledge of our members to enhance leadership abilities. Established in 2007, the Alumni Leadership Institute prepares members to share our priorities and expertise when addressing the media, child welfare professionals and providers, the public, and policy makers.



• **FCAA Chapters and State-based Networking:** FCAA continues to expand the number of chapters working in their states and communities. Chapters receive a wide range of support, information, and materials in order to help them achieve our mission to Connect Today... Transform Tomorrow in their own communities. Our goal is to have a thriving chapter in every state and we're well on our way. Check our web site for a current list of both the established chapters as well as the states actively working towards creating their own chapters.



• **Communication:** We have the only national network for alumni news! FCAA members are instantly connected to important news affecting the alumni community – ranging from legislative announcements, calls to action, community events, regional activities, and so much more! Whether connecting through eBlasts, newsletters, or the FCAA blogs and forums, our members have immediate access to information that may impact their lives and the lives of those still in care.



• **Coming Home for the Holidays:** On Wednesday, November 21, 2007, twenty-three alumni, representing 12 million alumni nationwide, gathered at the steps of the United States Capitol to draw attention to a holiday – and a time of year – often filled with disappointment for the 513,000 children currently in the nation's foster care system. FCAA emphasized the need for national foster care financing reform so that foster children can be moved swiftly to safe, permanent families and other youth may avoid the need to enter foster care in the first place.



• **Legislative Activity:** Alumni are the only adults who have the legitimate claim as the voice of the children currently in care. We take this responsibility to heart. FCAA members have gone to Capitol Hill and met with our congressional representatives. We've been instrumental in getting key legislation sponsored and passed. Our voices have been heard. Our organization and our members have been personally referenced for bringing the alumni perspective to policy development.



FCAA's outreach include representation at the Its My Life conference, the Voices for America's Children annual conference, the National Convening on Permanency for Youth, the Child Welfare League of America conference, and the Court Appointed Special Advocates conference. Whether we're the keynote speaker, a session presenter, a workshop leader, a trainer, or an exhibitor, FCAA seeks to educate and inform others of the alumni perspective.



• **Exploring the Culture of Foster Care:** Our nationally recognized art project is a collection of postcards created by our members to express their insights and capture their experiences. These postcards have been shared with others to educate and inform with amazing results. Please take a few minutes to view a sampling of the postcards on our web site.



• **Partnerships:** FCAA works with many other organizations to meet our shared goals. FCAA was founded with the support of Casey Family Programs and we continue to collaborate on many projects. In addition, we are a partner of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Kids are Waiting campaign. FCAA is a part of a coalition of national organizations to promote National Foster Care Month, we work with the American Academy of Pediatrics on addressing health/mental health needs, and with the American Bar Association on addressing legal needs of people in and from foster care. Other examples of our partnerships include the All Children—All Families initiative and the National Foster Care Coalition. For a current list of our member organizations and more information about our partnerships, please visit our website.



[www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)