

THE DAY I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL MY FOSTER MOM TOLD ME, "YOU'VE BEEN EMANCIPATED. YOU CAN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE." MY SOCIAL WORKER SHOWED UP-I WAS STILL IN MY LITTLE GRADUATION DRESS AND HEELS, MY FLOWERS, MY CAP ON. MY SOCIAL WORKER HAD NEVER TALKED WITH ME. [SHE JUST] TOLD ME, "I'VE CALLED AROUND AND FOUND A SHELTER FOR YOU. YOU HAVE A BED FOR FOUR MONTHS." —KAREN D.



In today's economy, the ability to make a living wage without some form of postsecondary education is rapidly diminishing. California's future prosperity depends on its ability to cultivate a workforce that can compete successfully in the global economy.

- Nearly 4,000 youth in California "age out" of foster care, 65% do so without a place to live.
- 51% are unemployed, with 33% receiving public assistance.
- Nearly 25% did not have a high school diploma or G.E.D.
- A mere 10% attend college and 1-3% obtain a bachelor's degree

80% of jobs in the future will require math and science skills STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] according to the National Science Foundation

WALK-IN RESOURCE CENTER

The **Walk-In Resource Center** is a program that focus on the needs of former foster and probation youth and is open to all young women between 18-24 with no geographic restrictions. Support services include a peer-to-peer group—

1. Support and encourage one another
2. Offer feedback to each other by sharing personal experiences
3. Build relations and cohesiveness within the group
4. Share experiences and educate one another by suggesting actions that have been helpful in similar circumstances
5. Allow for constructive spontaneity of the group experience
6. Instillation of hope for the future
7. Acceptance and respect from group members.
 - ▶ Assessment
 - ▶ Counseling
 - ▶ Tutoring
 - ▶ Technology training
 - ▶ Nutrition
 - ▶ Hygienic needs
 - ▶ Referrals
 - ▶ Job training
 - ▶ Placement assistance
 - ▶ Postsecondary assessment
 - ▶ Vocational assessment

FOR WOMEN ONLY, INC



"Your Past is not Your Future"

"MOTIVATE, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER ONE ANOTHER TO EXCELLENCE"

"INDIVIDUALLY, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE MIRACLES."
—UNKNOWN

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A public not-for-profit organization to enhance the lives of foster youth in transition

WHO WE ARE?

Weekly computer training classes at
A Community of Friends (ACOF)



FOR WOMEN ONLY, Inc (FWOInc)

is a public not-for-profit organization which served the female homeless population with workforce training and placement, development and housing needs in Los Angeles County for 15 years.

Today, our mission is to inspire and support female youth ages 18 to 22 who exited the Los Angeles County foster care and probation system as they pursue their academic goal.

“Passport to Life” a South Los Angeles Housing and Education Project will help youth discover their own power; help them identify their strengths; make it possible for them to control their life as they pursue a degree or professional certification.

Passport to Life (PtL) designed its services to provide young adults with the skills and knowledge they need to be self-supporting by age 25—through relationships with family, friends and community. We want to make certain our residents will have the resources necessary to succeed in all the important areas—community connections and supportive relationships, physical and mental health, life skills, education, employment, and housing.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- ▶ Safe, nurturing environment with private sleeping quarters for up to 3 years (incl: hot meals, bedding and toiletries)
- ▶ Case management services
- ▶ Education assistance and resources
- ▶ Employment assistance and resources
- ▶ Life skills training
- ▶ Follow up services
- ▶ Permanent housing resources

WHAT WE DO

- Develop a comprehensive service plan
By effectively engaging with young people and becoming partners in their planning process, residential caregivers can help youth to identify their own talents and needs based on a comprehensive self-assessment. Staff can provide instructions in goal-setting and identify methods to help youth achieve these goals.
- Use outcome-oriented practice to help youth create their own vision for the future (Outcome-oriented practice focuses on the strengths and potential of a youth. By creating a vision, youth can learn to identify their capabilities and develop goals to help their dreams become reality.)
- Contribute to a coordinated system of transition services (Youth receive better quality services when providers work in a collaborative manner.)

SERVICE PLAN

- ▶ Connect young adults with positive role models;
- ▶ Build self-confidence and self-esteem;
- ▶ Provide opportunities to learn interpersonal and communication skills;
- ▶ Help young adults to feel genuine concern and support;
- ▶ Help youth to realize their educational objectives and allow young adults to be of service in the larger community.

“Never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”

—*Albert Einstein*

QUALIFIERS

- ▶ Former resident of DCFS or the Los Angeles County Probation Department
- ▶ Must be between 18 and 22 years of age
- ▶ Must be able to attend school/training fulltime and work part-time
- ▶ Willing to accept supportive services provided by various community agencies
- ▶ Open to a life skills training curriculum which is tailored to address individual needs, but not limited to our core services