

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION



Appreciation Strategy Humility
Commitment Responsibility Listening
Leadership
Integrity Honest Communication
Values Purpose Determination
Passion Principles



ARE YOU A CURRENT OR FORMER
FOSTER YOUTH 14-24?

INTERESTED IN MAKING A
POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE
FOSTER CARE SYSTEM ON A
LOCAL & STATEWIDE LEVEL?



JOIN
CYC!



**CYC IS A YOUTH-LED
ORGANIZATION WORKING TO
CHANGE THE FOSTER CARE
SYSTEM THROUGH POLICY AND
PRACTICE CHANGE. CYC
MEMBERS ARE CURRENT AND
FORMER FOSTER YOUTH AGES
14-24 FIGHTING TO IMPROVE
THE SYSTEM ON A STATE, AND
LOCAL LEVEL.**

**CYC INVESTS IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP
TO TRANSFORM FOSTER CARE TO A
STRUCTURE BUILT ON LOVE,
COMPASSION, AND PRACTICAL
SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AND
YOUNG ADULTS. TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS, CYC ENGAGES IN:**

- PEER-TO-PEER COMMUNITY BUILDING
- STATE AND LOCAL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
- TRAINING IN BEST PRACTICES FOR CHILD WELFARE AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH FOSTER YOUTH
- LOCAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ON TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY YOUNG PEOPLE



OUR CHAPTERS ARE CENTRAL TO ALL OF OUR WORK. TO BECOME A CHAPTER, AT LEAST TWO YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 24 WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE AND ONE VOLUNTEER SUPPORTER AGREE TO MEET. EACH NEW CHAPTER SIGNS AN AGREEMENT CONFIRMING THEY WILL MEET AT LEAST TWICE EVERY MONTH, AND WILL WORK ON A LOCAL ISSUE. EACH CHAPTER DETERMINES THEIR OWN LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE, WITH MEMBERS FACILITATING ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS, AND WORKING WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY CHALLENGES FACING FOSTER YOUTH IN THEIR COUNTY. THEY THEN MEET WITH THEIR LOCAL POLICYMAKERS AND CHILD WELFARE LEADERS TO PROPOSE POLICY SOLUTIONS.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION



YOUR VOICE MATTERS



**CONTACT CHAD FOR MORE INFORMATION AT:
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BY INVESTING IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CALIFORNIA'S FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, CYC HAS LED A FUNDAMENTAL PARADIGM SHIFT IN CHILD WELFARE POLICY IN CALIFORNIA AND BEYOND, PLACING FOSTER YOUTH VOICE AT THE CENTER OF POLICYMAKING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.



CYC OFFERS A SAFE PLACE FOR FOSTER YOUTH WHO MAY FEEL MARGINALIZED, LABELED OR STIGMATIZED WITHIN THEIR FOSTER HOMES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES. MEMBERS ARE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO LEARN AND SHARE WITH THEIR PEERS IN A COMMUNITY OF ACCEPTANCE, ENGAGEMENT, COMMITTED TO POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE. AT CYC, FOSTER YOUTH SHARE RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGEMENT. MEMBERS ARE SUPPORTED BY CYC STAFF AND A COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS WHO THE MEMBERS EXCLUSIVELY SELECT. WE ARE YOUTH-DRIVEN, WE DEVELOP YOUTH DECISION-MAKERS, WE PROVIDE YOUTH SUPPORTS AND WE CULTIVATE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT.