

# Greetings from DFS Independent Living!

## Foster and Adoptive Youth Together (FAAYT)

FAAYT is Clark County's Youth Advisory Board. The group can be characterized as both a social and working group. FAAYT's mission is to provide a voice to youth in care and advocate for foster youth rights through legislation. FAAYT plans events throughout the year to bring youth together who have at least one thing in common, foster care.

The Independent Living (IL) unit and FAAYT had the opportunity to attend a National Independent Living conference in Orlando, Florida this past August. The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Daniel Memorial Conference, entitled "Growing Pains", provided the fantastic opportunity to connect with former and current foster youth from around the nation. Four youth selected from Clark County participated in training sessions, workshops, panel discussions, and leadership/team building activities dedicated to the needs of youth who are currently in care. Each general session and workshop offered innovative ideas on how youth can adapt to life's ever-changing situations and be properly guided to become competent, responsible, independent adults.

Independent Living is excited to offer more travel, networking, and educational opportunities to Clark County's current and former foster youth. The unit is currently getting ready to attend a statewide Youth Advisory Board event in Lake Tahoe; three youth will be joining us. They will have the opportunity to meet Nevada foster youth from neighboring counties. Together, they will participate in skill building activities and planning to positively impact the foster care system.

### Important Dates:

10/17 FAAYT Meeting 4-6PM

11/20 Holiday Party 4:30-7:00PM @ Crystal Palace (Registration Link Pending)

11/21 FAAYT Meeting 4-6PM

12/19 FAAYT Meeting 4-6PM

Meetings are held at:

3930 Cambridge Street

LV NV 89119



## FAAYT (cont).

As some youth prepare for a Lake Tahoe trip, others prepare for a journey to our Nation's Capitol. Three other IL youth will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Foster Youth in Action Conference. These youth will join their peers from around the nation to address foster care concerns with their respective Senators.

Although lots of travel has been planned for October, FAAYT will be busy at work back here in Clark County as well. FAAYT is currently planning a Holiday party which will extend to all current and former foster youth aged 13-21. The party will take place on November 20th, from 4:30-7 pm. The group has decided to host a Cosmic Roller Skating Party at Crystal Palace on Rancho Drive. Please contact the Independent Living unit for more information. For questions, contact Rebecca at 702-455-0573.

## Transitioning Youth from Care

You may have noticed our Independent Living unit has been hard at work improving their program practice, particularly paying close attention to preparing youth for their transition into adulthood. IL will begin intensive planning for this transition at 17.5 years of age. The youth and their assigned IL worker will discuss their options in regards to exiting care. The Independent Living worker will facilitate a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting 90 days and 30 days prior to the youth's 18th birthday to ensure the Independent Living Transition Plan is complete and the youth is set up for success. This plan will include the youth's plans for housing, employment, education, money management, and permanent connections.

It definitely "takes a village" when preparing and supporting our youth as they enter into adulthood. The Independent Living unit thanks you for your participation in the CFT meetings, consistent communication, and all that you do to assist these youth as they become young adults.

***“Do Not Give  
Your Past the  
Power to Define  
Your Future”***

