

# Update from Independent Living



## USC/Sony Tour with Nevada Partners

Nevada Partners has reached out to DFS Independent Living to assist foster youth in reaching their full potential. They have been an invaluable partner and recently provided a wonderful opportunity for youth interested in the film and arts industry. On September 7, four foster youth attended a tour of USC and Sony Studios with youth from Nevada Partners. The youth met at 2:30am at Nevada Partners and arrived in L.A. for a breakfast hosted by producer/director couple Sol Aponte and Jennia Fredrique Aponte who sponsored the trip. The youth first toured USC and enjoyed meeting other directors and producers as well as touring the film school.

After the USC tour and lunch on campus, the youth toured Sony Studios and met with actors Aldis Hodge, Skye P. Marshall and Shawn Carter Peterson, make-up artist and business owner Michelle Hibbert, and Brett King, Vice President of Creative Programming, Diversity and Inclusion

for Sony Pictures Entertainment. Topics included their personal stories and overcoming barriers, how to get into the movie industry and how the film industry is working to be more inclusive of diversity, both behind the scenes and on-screen. Their stories were moving and inspiring and youth enjoyed the day, met new friends and came back excited about the possibilities ahead of them!

## Update from FAAYT (Foster and Adoptive Youth Together)

Per youth request, FAAYT is now meeting every other week instead of once per month. During the meeting on October 30, youth enjoyed bobbing for apples after completing FAAYT business. Youth have decided on a less hierarchical officer structure, choosing a more egalitarian format to their meetings where everyone can have input on decision making. If you have a youth who would like to meet their peers in a safe and friendly environment, or help plan activities and events, please have them contact their IL worker.