

2017 SPONSORSHIP



*connecting teens
creating families
changing lives*

Friends of DCFYI



Dear Friend,

Remember the first time you walked into a wedding – you think, *“Where do I sit? Who do I talk to at the reception? When is it my turn to eat?”* So what do you do? Ask mom, she’ll have all the answers.

Teens in the foster care system often don’t have caring adults to help guide them through common situations like wedding etiquette, what to wear to a job interview, or how to fill out a college application. This is where Family & Youth Initiative (DCFYI) comes in.

DCFYI is the only area organization that works exclusively to help older children at risk of “aging out” of foster care find family. Older children are the least likely to be adopted and the most likely to age out of care without permanent connections, yet research shows that having just one caring, committed adult in the life of a child can make all the difference between struggle and success.

DCFYI uses a unique approach, bringing together teens and adults for group activities to have fun and get to know each other, allowing relationships to form naturally and comfortably. This early and active involvement of teens is part of what makes us different from other adoption programs.

We are inviting you to sponsor this year’s Establishing Roots fundraiser, being held October 11, 2017 at historic Eastern Market. Proceeds from the reception cover a significant portion of DCFYI’s annual budget, ensuring that more teens in foster care will have adoptive families and other adults who will be in their lives permanently to support and guide them.

As a sponsor, you’ll be demonstrating your commitment to improving the lives of teens in foster care to the hundreds of members of our community. With your support, we can make this year’s event even more successful and allow DCFYI to serve more teens.

If you have any questions please contact Executive Director Susan Punnett at 202-863-0975 or SusanP@dcfyi.org. We would be happy to meet with you to tell you more about our work or discuss sponsorship levels. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Punnett".

Susan Punnett
Executive Director, DCFYI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Amidzich".

Gail Amidzich
Establishing Roots Co-Chair

What is Family & Youth Initiative?

Family & Youth Initiative (DCFYI) helps teens in foster care find adoptive families and other adults who will stay in their lives long into adulthood. It grew out of a need to support teens who otherwise would not have the consistent support of caring adults. Teens in foster care are more likely to remain in foster care until they "age out" than ever be adopted. Research shows that young people who age out face daunting odds in the transition to adulthood. These include homelessness, lack of education, underemployment, and involvement with the criminal justice system. Having consistent support from caring adults changes these odds.

DCFYI uses a unique model that meets the developmental needs of teens, involving them in the process of finding their own adult connections. Most programs use the same approach for children of all ages and focus primarily on the adults (an approach that works better for young children).

DCFYI changes lives. We match youth with host parents and mentors, and help them find adoptive families.

At least once a month we hold program events that allow adults and teens to get to know each other while having fun. Only DCFYI gives teens and adults the opportunity to get to know each other before being matched for mentoring or host parenting. Hosting and mentoring matches are made from relationships that form naturally through the events.

Teens develop relationships with many adults, not just the ones with whom they are matched. Those relationships are an important part of the DCFYI "village."

The kids are so great!

– DCFYI Mentor



Why sponsor *Establishing Roots*?

Because of you, teens in foster care find a new family – both in the larger DCFYI community and with the individual adults who become part of their lives. With your financial support, teens will not remain in foster care until they age out alone.

Sponsoring *Establishing Roots* offers an opportunity both to provide direct support for DCFYI's mission of finding adoptive families for teens in foster care and to express to the wider community your commitment to the importance of DCFYI and its mission.

How will my sponsorship funds be used?

Sponsorship funds support the ongoing work of DCFYI, allowing teens and adults to connect in a safe, supportive space. Teens gain the support of a caring community (what many of them refer to as their "family") while getting to know adults who could become their mentors or host or adoptive parents. Funds raised through *Establishing Roots* allow DCFYI to organize events like hikes, birthday parties, bowling, and budgeting workshops – activities other teenagers take for granted.

Volunteering with DCFYI has been one of the most incredible experiences I have had as a volunteer. Watching teens connect with adults and experience a sense of community within the program is powerful. Whether it's helping with a resume, homework, or talking through problems with schools, it's great to watch teens grow."

– DCFYI Mentor



More than just a contribution, an investment.

Support for Family & Youth Initiative is a generous gift. But it is also a wise investment. Foster teens who are adopted instead of being left to age out and fend for themselves are more likely to get an education, launch a career, and become contributors to the economy and their community. They are less likely to need public support. In fact, a study by the *Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative* estimates that, on average, we pay \$300,000 for each young person left to age out of foster care, due to such social costs as public assistance and incarceration as well as lost wages over that person's lifetime. They estimate that society pays \$8 billion in costs for the children who age out of foster care nationally each year.

Looked at another way: "Every dollar spent helping a family adopt a child from foster care saves three dollars in social benefits. More important, it saves a child." (Jeff Katz, *Washington Post*, April 27, 2014)

When was DCFYI created?

Before we were Family & Youth Initiative, we were the Kidsave Weekend Miracles program, funded by a five-year Adoption Opportunities grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We learned a lot through the work of that grant – both from the families and youth we served and from the other Adoption Opportunities agencies.

At the end of the HHS grant when Kidsave decided to close Weekend Miracles in Washington, DC, we were not willing to walk away from the wonderful teens then in the program or the many others also in foster care. We knew we could make a difference in their lives, and so we created Family & Youth Initiative in 2010 to keep going and build on what we had begun.



In the ensuing years, we have...

- Served 50 teens;
- Matched 24 teens with mentors;
- Matched 11 teens with host families;
- Helped 21 teens find permanent (adoptive or legal guardianship) families;
- Recruited over 150 individuals who became active program volunteers.

Other highlights

- Received funding from the Freddie Mac Foundation and many family foundations.
- Press coverage: *Huffington Post*, *Bittersweet Monthly*, *Stone Soup Films*, *The New York Times* "Motherlode," and an opinion piece in *The Washington Post*.
- Honored former D.C. Mayor (and former foster child) Anthony Williams and NBC4 news anchor and founder and host of Wednesday's Child Barbara Harrison at *Establishing Roots* fundraisers.
- Selected by *Fair Chance* as a partner.
- Selected for inclusion in the 2015-2016 Catalogue for Philanthropy.

What surprised you when you first got involved with DCFYI? (about the teens or the program)

I was surprised it existed. I did not know there was an organization devoted to foster youth who were older, those fast approaching the hard reality of adulthood.

What inspires you to be an active DCFYI volunteer?

For me, I am primarily a donor because my obligations prevent me from much else; however, seeing how donations have strengthened DCFYI and have allowed DCFYI to hire staff, I am proud.

What do you wish other adults knew about DCFYI or the teens?

First, learn that it exists, then learn of this crucial mission: older foster teens who were never adopted are about to enter the world. Step up, like my wife, and get involved, or support DCFYI with donations as I do to keep this essential mission afloat, especially at this challenging time.

— DCFYI Donor and Spouse of Mentor



What are the sponsorship benefits?

ESTABLISHING ROOTS

Annual Fundraising Reception – October 11, 2017

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS



DIAMOND SPONSOR

\$10,000 OR MORE

- Recognition during the program
- Full page ad inside front cover or back page of print program
- Organization name and logo on thank you board at event
- Organization logo & website link on DCFYI website
- Three times weekly social media mention through end of October
- Twenty tickets to reception



PLATINUM SPONSOR \$5,000-\$9,999

- Recognition during the program
- Full page ad in print program
- Organization name and logo on thank you board at event
- Organization logo & website link on DCFYI website
- Twice weekly social media mention through end of October, including event photos
- Fifteen tickets to reception



GOLD SPONSOR \$2,500-\$4,999

- Half page ad in print program
- Name on DCFYI website; if organization, will include logo & link to website
- Organization name and logo on thank you board at event
- Weekly social media mentions
- Ten tickets to reception



SILVER SPONSOR \$1,000-\$2,499

- Quarter page ad in print program
- Name on DCFYI website; if organization, will include logo & link to website
- Organization name and logo on thank you board at event
- Eight social media mentions
- Six tickets to reception



BRONZE SPONSOR \$500-\$999

- Sponsor name and logo in print program
- Name on DCFYI website; if organization, will include logo & link to sponsor website
- Six social media mentions
- Four tickets to reception



FRIEND \$250-\$499

- Listing in print program
- Name on DCFYI website; if organization, will include logo & link to website
- Social media thank you's
- Two tickets to reception

What are the next steps for sponsorship?

THANK YOU for your interest in DCFYI sponsorship! Below is a form to complete and return with your payment to DCFYI. If you prefer, you can complete your sponsorship application on the DCFYI website. The deadline is September 27, 2017 to be included in the event program.

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Establishing Roots: Annual Fundraising Reception – October 11, 2017

Sponsor's Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Name of contact person

Phone

Email

Website

Sponsorship amount

Payment method: (check one) Check Credit Card

Checks can be made payable to: Family & Youth Initiative

Credit Card MasterCard Visa Amex Discover

Card number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND
RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:



Family & Youth Initiative
515 M Street, SE
Suite 217
Washington, DC 20003

DCFYI Tax ID#: 38-3828204

**DEADLINE: September 27, 2017 to be
included in event program**

Thank you, 2016 Establishing Roots business sponsors!

