



The Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance
a coalition of organizations serving transitioning foster youth
491 Ninth Street, Oakland, CA 94607 510 444-4025 ext. 235



May 2006

Dear _____,

On Saturday, May 20th, I will be participating in the Foster Youth Alliance Stepping Stones Walk Around Lake Merritt in Oakland. I will walk alongside current and former foster youth in support of the work of the Foster Youth Alliance.

Since 1999, the Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance (FYA) has been working to ensure that youth emancipating from the foster care system in Alameda County and throughout the state of California have the support they need in transitioning to adulthood. FYA is a coalition of 26 public and private agencies in Alameda County that serve youth transitioning from foster care.

Many people are unaware that nearly 300 youth emancipate from foster care in Alameda County every year, and another 225 emancipate from San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties. When foster youth emancipate or “age out” of the foster care system at age 18, they are cut off from financial support from the county or state. Most former foster youth have no support network and no soft place to land if they make a mistake along the way. Among emancipated foster youth, 65% are at risk of homelessness the day they leave foster care. 55% do not complete high school, and 50% are unemployed within 18 months of emancipation.

FYA is working hard to change these statistics by promoting policies and systems change and through nurturing and expanding the network of local providers in an ongoing effort to improve outcomes for former foster youth. In the past year, FYA has played a pivotal role in raising the age up to which former foster youth can access state funded housing programs from age 21 to 24. FYA also worked to expand post-secondary educational support and employment opportunities for former foster youth.

Please consider making a donation to FYA in my name. Donations can be made online at www.fosteryouthalliance.org or by sending a check made out to “ACFYA, a project of CIFSFF.” Checks can be mailed to Amy Freeman, Executive Director, Foster Youth Alliance, 491 Ninth Street, Oakland, CA 94607. If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Clemmons, Project Manager, at 510-428-9821.

Sincerely,