



Governor Walker meets with FFCA to sign House Bill 27

.Advocating for an improved Foster Care System

FFCA helped pass two pieces of legislation that will greatly improve the lives of youth in foster care. House Bill 27 passed unanimously with the help of FFCA members, who shared their stories of how the bill would positively affect youth in foster care. House Bill 27 gives youth the sense of normalcy, like having a house key, doing Alaska outdoor activities such as snow machining or four wheeling, and also spending nights at friends' houses without their foster parent having to talk with the youth's caseworker. House Bill 200 makes it easier for Alaska Native family and friends to establish a path for permanency for children in care.

Quarterly Retreats

In March this year FFCA brought 22 youth and alumni to Juneau to share their stories with legislators to try and help improve the foster care system. Youth and alumni learned many skills and were even introduced on the House floor. We were able to share our experiences with others outside of Juneau by getting media coverage and speaking to the press. In a private meeting with Lt. Governor Mallott, we heard how he grew up in the rural villages of Alaska and had some of the same experiences as our youth and alumni.

In addition FFCA held three retreats in Anchorage that brought 32 youth and alumni to the May retreat that focused on "financial literacy," we had enthusiastic presenters talk about banking and credit and about how to invest money in the future.



In August we brought 27 youth and alumni to have a retreat focused on "ownership and youth engagement." Youth were able to learn how they could get involved in their communities with FFCA and planned what youth wanted to see from FFCA in the future. In November we held our last retreat for 2016 with the biggest turnout of the year with 42 youth and alumni attending. The retreat topic was "building a healthy you." Members were able to learn many new skills such as coping with anxiety, self-defense, and art expression during this retreat.

Alaska Children's Trust Champion for Kids Award

An original member of FFCA, Amanda Metivier was awarded the Alaska Children's Trust Champion for Kids Award that recognized her contributions to children living throughout Alaska. The award was presented by First Lady Donna Walker.



Growing Community Support

Foster Care Awareness Month

FFCA raised approximately \$3,000 at an amazing special event in May hosted by Alaskan Native Artist Drew Michael. The fundraiser was part of FFCA's Foster Care Awareness Month activities. 45 enthusiastic supporters came by to hear youth share their stories and learn more about FFCA.

New Challenge Grant

Gaguine Foundation awarded a challenge grant to give FFCA startup funds to hire full-time staff and expand our programs. FFCA is currently looking for funders to help us meet the challenge.

Arctic Entries Shared FFCA's Story

Arctic Entries, an Anchorage based storytelling event, selected Facing Foster Care in Alaska at their cause for 2016. They generously raised \$26,000 for FFCA. In addition, FFCA members were able to use their platform to tell their own personal stories.

• Next Steps

- FFCA is currently working on a collaboration with Office of Children's Services and North Star on understanding youth's limits and right on over medicating.
- FFCA is working to expand our programs and presence statewide.
- FFCA is advocating for more stringent guidelines on APPLA (Another Planned Living Arrangement).

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Facing Foster Care in Alaska is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Tax ID 74-3099527.