

# What FFCA Means to Youth

To be proactive

To be worthwhile

A sense of self

Networking with other youth and alumni

To be a role model

To be yourself

Coming together making a difference

Making it fun for foster youth

Moving mountains with our stories

Finally finding a family

Feeling like you're not a victim of your circumstances

TO BE THE CHANGE!!



Facing Foster Care in Alaska

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Facing Foster Care  
in Alaska

"HEAR US TO KNOW US"



## Mission Statement

Our mission is to improve the foster care system through sharing our experiences supporting and educating youth and social services, and implementing positive change in society as a whole.

## Facing Foster Care in Alaska



### Youth Meetings and Retreats

FFCA builds membership by holding regional meetings in Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Wasilla. At these regional meetings, youth and alumni get to know each other, have fun and learn about FFCA.

Members can, if they wish, share their experiences in foster care; often provide support for others; always learn new things and talk about ideas to help change the foster care system.

Youth and alumni who attend regional meetings have the opportunity to attend statewide retreats. The retreats are held four times a year in Anchorage area. These two day events usually involve some type of training, work, strategy sessions, food, and fun.

### History

In 2003, a group of dedicated foster care youth and alumni from across Alaska came together to share their issues and form a Youth Advisory Board. In 2004, the group adopted the name Facing Foster Care in Alaska (FFCA). FFCA is dedicated to sustaining a statewide organization that will continue to work towards supporting foster youth and improving the foster care system.

### Membership

**Youth**—Young people ages 15-24 current in foster care or out of home placement.

**Alumni**—Young people ages 15-24 who were in foster care at some point in their life.

FFCA has touched the lives of hundreds of youth and alumni across Alaska and the U.S. FFCA



## Accomplishments

members have remained dedicated to improving the foster care system on both a state and national level through partnerships with state and private agencies, and youth alumni networks.

Listed below are some of the major accomplishments FFCA has made as an organization since 2003.

- ⇒ Advocated for legislation to extend foster care to age 21, keep siblings together, allow for more foster homes in rural communities, and expand resources to youth aging out of foster care
- ⇒ Hosted a rally recognizing the need for foster care reform
- ⇒ Launched the FosterWear Program, to provide discounts to foster families
- ⇒ Published a book to teach youth about their role in court
- ⇒ Developed digital stories to train child welfare staff
- ⇒ Developed a statewide network of youth and alumni
- ⇒ Launched a program to connect foster youth with gently used laptops