



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.

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 improving the lives of children and youth in foster care through developing and sustaining a statewide organization that will continue to work towards supporting foster youth and improving the foster care system.

Membership. FFCA is composed of individuals who are in or from the foster care system. The membership represents a wide range of ages, including:
Youth (Soul of the Group) ages 15 to 18
Alumni (Senior Leaders) ages 19 to 24
Elders (Resource Advisors) ages 24 to 100.

Regional Meetings and Statewide Retreats. FFCA is building 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 an opportunity to attend statewide retreats. The retreats are held four times a year in the Anchorage area. These two day events usually involve some type of training, work and strategy sessions, food and fun.

For example, members have received training in “Better Together” which partners alumni with social services staff to learn how to work better with each other. Alumni of the foster care system are a source of expertise that cannot be found anywhere else and their ideas and experiences are very important to help improve foster care policy and practice. These partners – staff and alumni – have teamed up to provide training for organizations, community groups, foster parents and social workers. This is one way for youth and alumni to have a voice in how their Social Workers, services providers, foster parents and others think about and care for children and youth in foster care.

FFCA past activities and accomplishments. These are just a few of the trainings, projects and activities members have participated in:

It's My Life Conferences in Sacramento, Baltimore, Seattle, and Atlanta --
Alaska Walking the Path Conference in, Girdwood, AK –
Seattle Better Together Conference – California Education Conference--Portland
NAEHCY Conference--Seattle Alumni Summit--Education and Foster Care Convenings
throughout Alaska--Texas Better Together Conference – Disproportionality training for
Alaska – Native Youth Council – Department of Labor Workforce Investment training –
REI Video, Foster Parent training – housing guide for homeless youth –CASA/GAL
Conference/Trainings-GAL Guidelines--Passage of the A.S.P.I.R.E. Bill--FLAME
Meetings--Family to Family Committees--Light of Hope Awards-- Youth in Court
Document for youth-- Written Articles for Anchorage Daily News--Letters to State
Legislators--Statewide Judges Summit--20 FFCA retreats – Worked with House Rep. Les
Gara to Ensure all youth in care can share their voice--developed FFCA logo – FFCA
newsletters –FFCA Brochures--FFCA T-Shirts--FFCA Pens-- membership recruitment –
developed FFCA strategic plan – training for new Social Workers--training for foster
parents – Non-Profit Training--media training – newspaper interviews – and much, much
more...

What It Means to be a Member of FFCA. In the FFCA Strategic Plan, members listed
reason why they come to meetings and retreats.....

make a little more sense of the world – share passion – hang out with friends – get out of
the house – travel and fun – attend conferences – for new experiences – closure – to have
a life – hope for better foster care – not being alone.

...and equally as important is what the members bring to the meetings and retreats and to
each other:

entertainment – humor – stories – connection – positive attitude – willingness to learn
and an open mind – share my experience – I have a story and goals that have helped –
stay true – speaking voice – future outlook – encouraging other people in the group – my
opinion counts even when others disagree – knowledge.

**FFCA wants to recruit new members and encourages anyone who is in foster care
or has been in foster care to join us. Contact Amanda Metivier, Kaylee Day, OR
Christina Finneseth if you are interested in becoming a member at
facing_fostercare@yahoo.com**

Amanda Metivier (FFCA President) 230-8237

Kaylee Day (FFCA Vice President) 723-0554

Christina Finneseth (Fairbanks Regional Rep.) 460-2936