

Directive to Administrators (Specify which administrators)	WAD (Wednesday) Publication Date	WAD Notice Number	No. of Pages
All Administrators	May 6, 2009		1 of 9
WAD Title (Limit to 4-6 Words)		Date Due (if applicable)	Not Applicable After
May is National Foster Care Month		N/A	6/1/09
From	Title	Signature	Telephone
Meyla Ruwin (Cabinet member or approved by one below)	Director, School Health Programs Department		242-2615
Inform <input type="checkbox"/> Certificated Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classified Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post on Bulletin Board Other _____			

Administrative Directive

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

WHAT: Each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity for people nationwide to focus attention on the year-round needs of youth in foster care and encourage more people to get involved in their lives. We invite you to recognize May as National Foster Care Month and to celebrate those who make a difference in the lives of children in the foster care system. For more information on how to get involved in National Foster Care Month activities, visit www.fostercaremonth.org and see attachment.

WHO: All of SFUSD staff, students, families/caregivers and community.

WHY: To raise awareness about the needs of the state's 75,000 foster children and youth by showing our appreciation for the dedication of the foster families as well as mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers who support them.

ATTACHMENTS:

- a) **May is National Foster Care Month:** Ideas on how you can show recognition of foster care month at your school sites.
- b) **Foster Youth Support Organizations and Services:** List of local resources specific to supporting foster youth.
- c) **Save the Dates: Foster Care Month Activities:**

What: Foster Youth Leadership Awards
When: Friday, May 1, 2009

What: HEY Foster Youth Connections Breakfast
When: Thursday, May 7, 2009

What: Voices of Foster Youth 2009 Resource Fair
When: Saturday, May 16, 2009, 12-4pm

<i>Approved</i>	Cabinet Member Trish Bascom	Title Associate Superintendent, Student Support Services	Signature
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May is National Foster Care Month!

National Foster Care Month in May provides an opportunity for people nationwide to get involved as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, and employers. It's also an opportunity to show our appreciation for the dedication of the foster families who care for foster children and youth, and the social workers who support them.

We invite you to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. Join us in making this a time to recognize and celebrate those who make a difference in the lives of children in the foster care system. For more information on how to get involved in National Foster Care Month activities, visit www.fostercaremonth.org, or check out the following ideas on how you can show recognition at your school site:

Recognize

The perfect time for honoring the many people who are making a difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care. Take a moment to recognize a foster parent, relative caregiver, mentor, volunteer or social worker for their efforts throughout the year. Remember, a simple “thank you” is a powerful reward.

Ideas to Get You Started

- **Send thank-you cards or personalized appreciation letters** to foster parents, kinship families and other volunteers. Reach out to local merchants to donate flowers, candy or gift certificates too.
- **Organize a social gathering** that encourages foster families to come together for a relaxing day of family fun and networking. Invite families to a school sponsored breakfast or lunch. Reach out to local attractions for free passes to the zoo, children’s museum or sporting event. Family outings are great opportunities for siblings living in different foster homes to reconnect and spend quality time together.
- **Feature a foster parent or volunteer of the year** (or select one for each month!) on your school’s website or in a newsletter. Include photos of the honorees and testimonial quotes from the children they serve describing how they have made a positive difference in their lives.
- **Hold a Blue Ribbon event** in celebration of National Foster Care Month. Create a visual display of blue ribbons representing each of the children in foster care in your state or community.
- **Create a visual display** highlighting national foster youth and foster parent achievements. View “success stories” on www.fostercaremonth.org for highlighted stories or visit www.fosterclub.com, click on “famous foster kids” for biographies on famous foster youth.

Promote

Each year thousands of families are affected by child welfare issues. In fact, there are 513,000 American children in foster care because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential wellbeing. Unfortunately, few citizens understand the magnitude of the issue or what foster care is all about. Promotional support at the local level is a key step in the education process. The more frequently people see positive messages about foster care in their community, the more likely they will be to come forward and do something to *change a lifetime* for a child in need.

Ideas to Get You Started

- **Promote local events and Foster Care Month Events Calendar to school staff, families, youth and community members.** San Francisco events include:
 - Foster Youth Leadership Awards (Friday, May 1, 2009, 6-9PM)
 - HEY Foster Youth Connections Breakfast (Thursday, May 7, 2009, 8-9:30AM)
 - Voices of Foster Youth 2009 Resource Fair (Saturday, May 16, 2009, 12-4PM)
- **Distribute National Foster Care Month materials in school bulletins, newsletters and in your community.** Help raise awareness about foster care by displaying promotional posters and flyers. Hand out lapel pins and blue ribbons to friends and colleagues.

Support

As you plan for National Foster Care Month activities, we encourage you to support and inspire school site staff's involvement and awareness about foster care.

Ideas to Get You Started

- **Promote the recruitment of foster parents at your school site.** Encourage school site staff, parents and community members to consider becoming a foster parent. Visit the National Foster Parent Association at www.nfpainc.org or contact SF Licensing Hot Line at (415) 558-2200. Invite a licensing worker to present to school site staff on becoming a foster parent.
- **Read and Share “What Teachers and Educators Can Do to Help Youth in Foster Care”** for more extensive information on supporting good educational outcomes for students in out-of-home care including: classroom tips, how to explore the student's academic history, preparation for post-secondary education, career planning and more.
- **Educate school site staff on the educational needs of foster youth students.** Issues such as compromised academic outcomes, school placement instability, social/behavioral factors, poor high school completion and low post-secondary entrance rates are adversely affecting the futures of foster youth students.
- **Help students gain access to appropriate academic supports** such as tutoring, counseling and test preparation. Invite the child's resource parents (foster parents, kinship caregivers, adoptive parents) to work with you in assessing the student's current level of achievement and setting reasonable goals for the academic year.
- **Make your library foster care-friendly!** Broaden the diversity of families depicted in the books and materials in your library to include foster, adoptive and kinship families. Host special readings or film screenings featuring the works of accomplished foster care alumni such as Regina Louise, Josh Shipp, Victoria Rowell, Chris Eyre, Bob Danzig and others.

This information was adapted by www.fostercaremonth.org and brought to you by the SFUSD Foster Youth Services Program for National Foster Care Month. For more information, please contact FYS Coordinator Maya Webb @ 415-242-2615.

Foster Youth Support Organizations and Services

Cross – Level (K-12)

Focus Area	Organization	Description	Contact
<u>After School Program</u>	SFUSD ExCEL After School Program	The San Francisco Unified School District/School Health Programs Department ExCEL After School Program provides elementary through high school youth with academic, enrichment and recreation opportunities at 86 SFUSD school sites.	(415) 242-2615 www.healthiersf.org
<u>Educational Support Services</u>	San Francisco Department of Human Services	City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA)/SFUSD Educational Liaison provides support and advocacy for foster youths' educational needs.	Gloria Anthony-Oliver (415) 557-5305 Email: Gloria.Anthony-Oliver@sfgov.org
	SFUSD/SHPD Foster Youth Services Program (FYSP)	<u>Case Management/Advocacy:</u> FYS Liaisons and MSW Interns provide educational case management services. <u>Tutoring:</u> One to one in-home tutoring to elementary and middle school foster youth within San Francisco County.	(415) 242-2615, Ext 3310 www.healthiersf.org
	Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)	ILSP provides eligible youth with individual and group tutoring services for foster youth ages 14-21 years. ILSP also provides college tours, test preparation and education information sessions.	(800) 818-2989 www.sfilsp.org
<u>Foster Parent Recruitment</u>	San Francisco DHS, Foster Family Licensing Unit	City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services, Foster Family Licensing Unit recruits, trains and license families and individuals to become Foster Parents.	Licensing Hot Line (415) 558-2200
<u>Kinship Services</u>	Edgewood Center for Children and Families: Kinship Services	Edgewood's Kinship Support Network assists families headed by relatives who are serving as primary care providers by providing case management, therapeutic counseling, educational workshops, and respite for caregivers.	(415) 682-3234 (415) 865-3000 www.edgewood.org
<u>Mental Health Services</u>	A Home Within	A Home Within's <u>Children's Psychotherapy Project</u> recruits clinicians in the private sector to offer weekly pro bono therapy.	(415) 474-6365 www.ahomewithin.org
	Foster Care Mental Health Program	Mental health services specifically for foster youth. Youth must be referred by their child welfare worker.	(415) 970-3875
<u>Mentoring</u>	Court Appointed Special Advocate (SFCASA)	SFCASA volunteers provide consistent one-on-one mentorship and advocacy, carefully evaluating and addressing the needs of client children	(415) 398-8001 www.sfcasa.org
	ROYAL-Realizing Our Youth as Leaders Inc.	A therapeutic mentoring program for youth ages 5-18. Mentors are extensively trained in Cognitive/Behavioral and other therapeutic techniques. Youth must be referred by their child welfare worker.	(415) 643.7117 www.royalinc.org
	Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)	ILSP sponsors the Emancipated Youth Peer Mentorship Program. Weekly mentoring services are offered to current and former foster youth students.	(415) 934-4201 www.sfilsp.org

Foster Youth Support Organizations and Services

	Focus Area	Organization	Description	Contact
Secondary (14+ years)	<u>Advocacy</u>	California Youth Connection	California Youth Connection (CYC) is an advocacy organization of current and former foster youth between the ages of 14-24 years.	(800) 397-8236 www.calyouthconn.org
		Foster Care Ombudsman Program	Acts as an independent forum for the investigation and resolution of complaints made by or on behalf of children placed in foster care and makes appropriate referrals.	(877) 846-1602 www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov
		Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY)	Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY) is an advocacy collaborative of current and former foster youth, public, private, and nonprofit agencies in the Bay Area working together to improve the opportunities for youth leaving the foster care system.	(415) 808-4435 www.heysf.org
	<u>Housing</u>	Larkin Street Youth Services	Larkin Street offers a range of housing options- from emergency shelter to permanent supportive housing- in addition to essential wraparound services including education, technology and employment training; healthcare, including mental health, substance abuse and HIV services; and case management.	(415) 673-0911 www.larkinstreetyouth.org
		First Place for Youth	First Place targets its services to 16 to 23 year-olds who are preparing to age out of foster care or who have recently aged out of care. First Place offers three programs: Supportive Housing Program, Emancipation Training Center, and Emancipation Specialist Program.	(510) 272-0979 www.firstplaceforyouth.org
	<u>Independent Living Skills</u>	Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP)	ILSP provides eligible youth with the skills and resources necessary to become self-sufficient. Services include access to housing, job training, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, post-secondary resources, case management and life skill workshops.	(800) 818-2989 www.sfilsp.org
	<u>Post-Secondary Support</u>	Chafee Education and Training Vouchers	Federal funds for foster youth, with up to \$5,000 a year toward the cost of attending college or vocational training. Eligible expenses include tuition and room and board.	www.chafee.csac.ca.gov
		City College of San Francisco's Guardian Scholars Program	The goal of the City College of San Francisco's Guardian Scholars Program is to create a coordinated program that meets the needs of emancipated foster youth qualified to enroll and/or enrolled at the college. In partnership with CCSF, SFUSD and ILSP, high school to college transitional support is offered through the Guardian Scholars Summer Academy.	(415) 239-3682 Email: mmcpartl@ccsf.edu
		San Francisco State University's Guardian Scholars Program (GSP)	GSP is a comprehensive program of the SFSU Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which serves former foster youth who are pursuing their undergraduate degrees. The individual case management services offered will enhance EOP's current academic focus.	(415) 405-0546 Email: xvsz@sfsu.edu



Mark Your Calendars for HEY's 3 Foster Care Month Events May 2009

- **Foster Youth Leadership Awards** – Friday, May 1, 2009
Program: 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Dinner: 7:30 – 9 p.m.

30 current and former foster youth will be recognized for their leadership in the community. Join social welfare professionals, educators, and others who work closely with local foster care youth as they celebrate resiliency in San Francisco's current and former foster youth. Youth in foster care face incredible challenges and need the support of friends, family, and the community. Show them you believe in their strength by honoring them at this celebration.

- **HEY Foster Youth Connections Breakfast** – Thursday, May 7, 2009
Registration: 7:30 – 8 a.m.
Program: 8 – 9:30 a.m.

In celebration of National Foster Care Month, please join Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY) for a very special breakfast as we gather our community together to honor those who are making a positive change for current and former foster care youth.

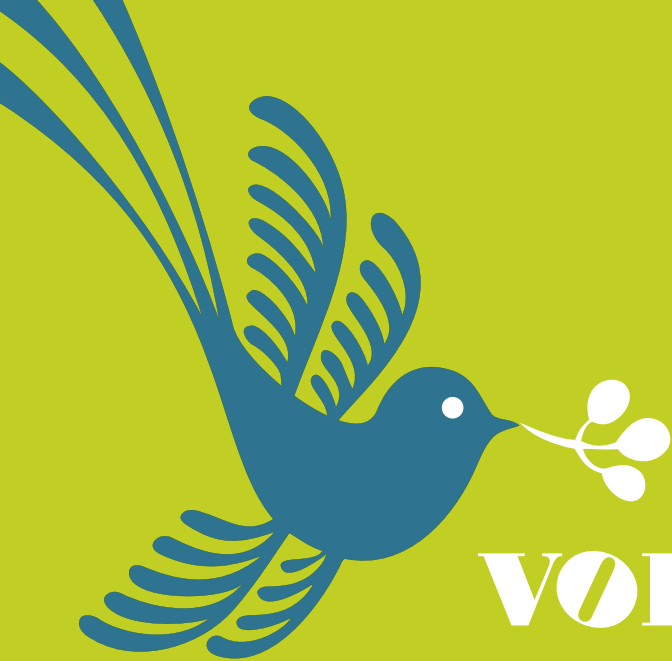
Each year we focus on 4 HEY partners who are each doing exceptional work providing the following services for former foster youth in HEY's advocacy areas:

- ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Employment
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Health
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- **Voices of Foster Youth 2009 - Resource Fair** – Saturday, May 16
Event: 12 – 4 p.m.

May is National Foster Care Month so join us for **"Voices of Foster Youth 2009"** a day of FREE carnival fun including games, prizes, music, food and of course, community and job resources!

Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY) is dedicated to strengthening and connecting San Francisco's systems of support so that Bay Area youth emancipating, or "aging out" of the foster care system can enjoy a healthy transition to adulthood. For more information on Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY), please visit the website at www.heysf.org



VOICES OF FOSTER YOUTH

**6th Annual San Francisco Bay Area
foster care month
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, May 16th, 2009 • 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Justin Herman Plaza: San Francisco

May is National Foster Care Month so join us for a day of FREE activities for all ages! Lots of chances to win amazing prizes, eat free food, listen to great music, and find out about many community and job resources!

Voices of Foster Youth 2009

Celebration for local current and former foster youth!

when: Saturday, May 12th, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

where: Justin Herman Plaza, San Francisco (close to Market and Spear, near the Embarcadero BART)

why: **Free food! Great Music and Entertainment!** – featuring KMEL 106.1 **Resources!** – featuring over 30 local agencies supporting foster youth! **Prizes!**

Voices of Foster Youth 2009 is a FREE annual event which has become a keystone in the Bay Area National Foster Care Month celebrations.

For more information, or to make a contribution towards this event, please contact Leslie at HEY: 415-808-4497 or lbrown@uwba.org

This event is a collaboration between the following organizations:

Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY)
San Francisco Independent Living Skills Program (SFILSP)
San Francisco Human Services Agency (SFHSA)
SFUSD Foster Youth Services
SF Court Appointed Special Advocates (SF CASA)
California Youth Connection (CYC)
City Youth Now
First Place for Youth
JVS
Seneca Connections

