

the network



network club



In an effort to build the capacity of Youth Boards and Councils across America and elevate youth voice in national policy, awareness and resource development efforts, FosterClub announces a new opportunity... **Join the network that is built for youth, powered by youth, and changing life in foster care.**

the vision:

Youth Boards across the nation connect and collaborate to leverage their voices, build the capacity of their members, and create better public awareness and community connections. Their combined efforts form a network which ultimately improves life for kids in foster care.



the strategy:

Now existing Youth Boards and Councils can join the FosterClub Network and gain access to a host of benefits and resources based on the best youth engagement strategies in the country. The Network will provide a mechanism to share ideas, celebrate successes and serve as a springboard for the improvement of foster care.

Join the FosterClub Network and gain access to tools and technical assistance, and more importantly, learn from other youth groups across the country. Together, we'll be more effective.



Website. Receive a website with new Web 2.0 functionality, powered by FosterClub. Connect with members, other young people and potential supporters. Blog, video, share news, and so much more!



Training & Technical Assistance. Webinars, Training documents, telephone support, organization guides and more are available to Network Members.



Web Conference Room Utilize FosterClub's web conference room subscription to share work remotely to the rest of your group. Several tools are available, including one which allows one user to share their screen with others.



Participate in National Foster Care Month. Benefit from national collaborations, and receive notices about how your group can make an impact in the month of May



Media Relations. Referrals and guidance for young people who interact with the media. Potential engagement in national media opportunities. Also, customize our national op-eds and press releases to mount your own media campaign.



Regular Updates. Receive eNews from FosterClub on a regular basis and keep up-to-date about what's going on with other Network members across the nation. Gain ideas and insights to improve your Club!

more >



Participation In National Policy Agenda. Elevate the voice of your Group's members and become engaged in changing the laws of our country to improve the foster care system.



Fundraising support. Take part in strategies available exclusively to members of the Network, such as FosterClub's "Text 2 Give" campaign.



Recognition on FosterClub.com. Let the world know about the great work of your group. Create good content on your page and maybe it will be promoted to FosterClub's home page.



Product Royalties. Sales of select FosterClub products and Publications by your Group will return a 10% royalty.



Volunteer Referral and donation. We receive many inquiries from individuals wishing to volunteer or provide support. Those people will be referred to Network members in their area.

By joining the FosterClub Network, Youth Boards will improve their capacity to advocate locally and nationally, gain connections to the media and build stronger public awareness campaigns. Youth Boards and young leaders will gain greater visibility and sustainability through this collaborative effort. In addition, FosterClub is dedicated to providing tools which will help Youth Boards ensure their own sustainability.

Legend

- Red Line- Glenmont to Shady Grove
- Orange Line- New Carrollton to Vienna/Fairfax-GMU
- Blue Line- Franconia-Springfield to Largo Town Center
- Green Line- Branch Ave to Greenbelt
- Yellow Line- Huntington to Fort Totten



the impact:

Young people across the nation will have better access to the peer networks that can provide so much support and inspiration. Young people who serve on Boards will develop skills and knowledge delivered through a positive youth development strategy and meaningful youth engagement.



questions + answers

Can our Youth Board be affiliated with another organization and still become part of the FosterClub Network? Yes! We encourage collaboration and regularly work with other fantastic organizations which serve foster youth, including State Independent Living Programs, Foster Care Alumni of America, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, Orphan Foundation of America, California Youth Connection and many others. Your group should gain approval from any Organization which holds a stake in the Group prior to applying to become part of the network.

Can we have our own, unique name? Yes! We encourage groups to develop their own unique identity or brand apart from the Network. Your organization may refer to itself as part of the FosterClub Network to the extent that it strengthens the work that you do.

We currently raise our own funds. Would we have to share our money with FosterClub? No. Your Group retains any member dues or funds that are raised on it's own. If your Group chooses to participate in a FosterClub fundraising event, your group will share the revenue with FosterClub.

I am interested in starting a Youth Board. Can FosterClub serve as an “umbrella organization?” No. FosterClub does not provide financial assistance, fiduciary agency, governance, legal advice or 501(c)(3) status to Network members. This is why membership in the Network is only available to groups which have ties to an existing organization or have secured their own 501(c)(3) status. FosterClub can, however, provide training and technical assistance to new groups once they have a commitment from another organization to serve as an “umbrella” or have gained 501(c)(3) status.

If our group already has its own website, can we still join the Network? Absolutely. The ability to create a website hosted on FosterClub.com is only one of many optional benefits available to Network members.

What is a “Host Organization”? A host organization serves to guide youth groups in their strategic planning, development of programs and execution of ideas. Generally, a host organization is an established community organization, state agency or child welfare organization which provides mentorship and guidance to a grassroots group who has a similar mission. Their role is to advise youth members of the group to ensure programs, services and communications meet a specific professional standard and to help the group with achieve it's mission by leveraging the resources of the host organization.

What is a Fiscal Sponsorship? Groups cannot receive donations unless they are a non-profit which means 501(c)(3) status or a charity. For groups who are not officially

registered as a non profit or charity a fiscal sponsor is the only way for the groups to receive donations and have them processed on behalf of the group through their sponsor.

Will FosterClub dictate how we operate or the type of work we do? No. Our only requirement is that your group's work supports FosterClub's mission "to lead the efforts of young people in and from foster care to become connected, educated, inspired + represented so they can realize their personal potential and contribute to a better life for their peers." Your group will have access, however, to a wealth of tools which should increase your group's capacity and ability to be successful and sustainable.

Will FosterClub process donations for us? Yes, we can (if you choose to). Your group must be governed by a 501(c)(3) organization or obtain its own 501(c)(3) status in order to be eligible to receive tax-deductible donations (see fiscal sponsor). FosterClub can collect and process donations made through your FosterClub-powered website (we retain a percentage to maintain our national efforts). Your group always has the option to process its own donations.

What is the application process? Complete the FosterClub Network application. Be prepared to work with your group's young people and adult supporters and/or Sponsor Organization to provide information about your group's mission, operations, leadership, programs and membership. After submitting a complete application, you can expect to receive a response from FosterClub in 2-4 weeks.





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