

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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001. schedule	FLOTUS, Friday, January 29, 1999 (partial) (1 page)	01/29/1999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

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First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
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FOLDER TITLE:

Foster Care Event, 1/29/99 []

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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Aid Sought for Ex-Foster Children

Clinton Budget Includes \$280 Million for Teens Pushed Out at 18

By BARBARA VOBELDA
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton has included \$280 million in his next federal budget to help teenagers who are pushed out of the nation's foster care system simply because they turn 18.

The program, to be announced today by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, would fund state programs that work with teenagers as they leave foster care by providing training, health insurance, limited financial help and housing to help them live on their own.

Roughly 20,000 children are moved out of foster care each year at age 18, often without families or relatives to provide a home or financial support. While a fraction remain with foster families, most must fend for themselves because state and federal funding that has supported them ends when they turn 18.

That means they must find a job and a place to live, sometimes before they have finished high school.

"We need to do much more to help young people who have spent their whole lives in foster care make it on their own," said Bruce Reed, White House domestic policy adviser.

A Washington Post report last

year drew attention to these young people, a quarter of whom spend at least some time homeless after they are "emancipated" from the foster system, the bureaucratic label for the process. Studies by University of Wisconsin researcher Mark Courtney found that 12 to 18 months after they left foster care, just half of the ex-foster children were employed, one-third were on welfare, one-fifth of the girls had given birth and more than one-quarter of the boys had been imprisoned.

"We're very pleased the president has supported this underserved population," said Robin Nixon, director of youth services for the Child Welfare League of America. She said her organization and others would push for even broader legislation—extending the foster care entitlement to age 21, a change that would cost \$500 million over five years.

But while congressional Republicans had signaled their support for the president's initiative, she said, it would be more difficult to secure approval for extending an entitlement, which guarantees funding to any eligible child.

The president's proposal would increase federal spending for the first time since 1992 for the Independent

Living Program, a state-run program that encourages young people to finish high school and get training and teaches them how to budget, find apartments and plan for careers. That effort would receive \$175 million over five years.

The budget also includes \$50 million over four years to provide financial support for housing and other needs while the youths finish education or training they need to find jobs. It adds \$50 million over five years to allow former foster children to receive Medicaid until they are 21.

And it includes \$25 million over five years for housing and training homeless adolescents ages 16 to 21.

Congress created the Independent Living Program in 1986 after researchers found many of the nation's homeless were former foster children. The funding for that program stands at \$70 million a year, a figure based on the foster care population in the mid-1980s. Since then, the number of children in the system has more than doubled, to about 500,000.

In some states, the programs amount to short seminars on how to budget and find a job. In other programs, young people are placed in subsidized apartments and given job training and entry-level work.

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW EFFORTS TO SUPPORT TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH

January 29, 1999

Today at the White House, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, accompanied by Mrs. Tipper Gore and Secretary Donna Shalala, announces that the President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years in new support for young people who leave our nation's public foster care system at age 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship.

Foster Care Youth Reaching Adulthood Face Tough Challenges. Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Today, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

New Support For Youth Leaving Foster Care. The President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years to provide a framework for enhanced federal support to these young people:

- **Increasing the Federal Independent Living Program by 50 Percent.** The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Since 1992, the program's funding has been frozen at \$70 million. The President's budget will increase the program by 50 percent, investing \$175 million over five years in these services.
- **Offering Time Limited Economic Support.** Young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. The President's budget will include \$50 million over four years to create new competitive grants to States to complement the Independent Living program services by providing time-limited financial support for these young people as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce.
- **Providing Health Insurance.** Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The President's budget will propose that these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. His budget will include \$50 million over five years for this purpose.
- **Increasing the Transitional Living Program.** The President's budget will include a 33 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21. The program is currently funded at \$15 million; the President's budget will increase that funding by \$5 million for FY 2000.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT FOSTER CARE TRANSITIONING EVENT
EAST ROOM, WHITE HOUSE
JANUARY 29, 1999

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Jeffords who has worked tirelessly to give all children safe places to go after school and something in life to say “yes” to.

I also want to thank Secretary Shalala for that introduction and for her extraordinary leadership on behalf of all children, especially those too often forgotten. She reminded us of how far we’ve come in reforming our child welfare system. And we should all be proud of those accomplishments. But, today we also gathered to talk about an issue that hasn’t received the attention it deserves.

We know that we must do better by the nearly 20,000 young people who, every year, are forced to leave foster care and make it on their own. So today, I have come here to announce that the President’s budget will help ensure that the end of foster care will no longer mean the end of caring for the young people it serves.

None of this would have been possible without the people in this room.

It wouldn't have been possible without my friend Tipper Gore, whose compassion and commitment have placed a national spotlight on mental illness and homelessness. Again, it wouldn't have been possible without Secretary Shalala and her staff at the Department of Health and Human Services.

It wouldn't have been possible without Terry Harrak [her-Rock], John Gutierrez [Goo-tee-air-ez] and the other young people who walked in with Tipper and me just now. The courageous voices they have raised have educated the nation about this issue and inspired us all.

And it wouldn't have been possible without all of you who have been their biggest champions. I especially want to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Casey Family Program for their deep commitment and for helping to pull this event together.

As I look across this room, it is wonderful to see researchers, advocates, and community providers from all over the country. I don't think we've ever been privileged to host at the White House a group of people who have fought harder or longer to lift up the lives of former foster children. And all of us owe you a debt of gratitude for that.

In some ways, my own experiences with this issue started when I was a little girl. I'd ask my mother, as all children do, what it was like for her to grow-up. She was never in formal foster care. But she told me about how her teen parents couldn't take care of her after she was born. How they sent her to live with her grandparents. And how, when that didn't work out, she moved in with a family – and took care of their children in exchange for room and board.

[I know she was still thinking about that opportunity years later -- when she invited young women from a group home to come and work for us. They spent a lot of time with our family, just as my mother had done so many years ago.]

My mother has often told me how grateful she is to the woman she moved in with. Because she was able to see what a real family is like. She watched what happens inside a home when children have someone to praise them when they succeed and pick them up when they fall. Someone who cares what happens to them day after day. Someone to simply love them.

Most us remember looking forward to celebrating our 18th birthdays -- and not just because of the party. It meant we could vote. It meant we could go away to college or get a job. ^{what} It meant we were becoming adults. But it didn't mean we were on our own.

But, if you ask the young people here -- or others who have aged out of foster care -- many will tell you that their 18th birthday was the start of a very tough road alone. We know young people who age out of foster care are more likely to drop out of school, land in a homeless shelter, be unemployed, come down with health problems...and have trouble getting health care.

And we know that these young people often carry with them traumatic experience of abuse and neglect, experiences of being shuffled from home to home.

More powerful than any statistic, I hope that every single elected official and every single American hears the stories of the young people here today and their peers across the country. Because there are no more powerful advocates or educators.

I hope they hear the voices of the young people here from cities such as Tucson, San Francisco and ^{Cincinnati}~~Alexandria~~. They carry with them stories of being homeless, while trying to finish school. They come here with gratitude for all of those who reached down to lift them up. And now many are helping others to do the same.

Whenever someone wants to know why we must do more for young people aging out of foster care, I hope they'll hear the voices of Alfred Perez -- who is here -- and others active in the California Youth Connection, an extraordinary group of young men and women I had the privilege to visit with just over a year ago in Berkeley.

It was right before Thanksgiving. And, one by one, they described what it was like to leave the foster care system. One 19 year old confessed that it was her first Thanksgiving by herself – and she didn't have anyone to call to ask how to bake a Turkey. And a young man in college talked about what how it feels when the dorms close down, when other students pack up to go home for the holidays -- and you have absolutely no where to go.

I hope that everyone who wonders why we need to do more for young people leaving foster care will hear the voices of people like Joy Warren, who is here with us today. Joy is in her first year at Yale Law School. Unlike most of the other students there, she spent her childhood in foster care -- and has been entirely on her own since 18. For seven years, she has lived without the support that permanent families provide...and all the while, she had managed to receive a college degree, work as an advocate to improve foster care, and begin law school.

I first met Joy in September at a conference called Destination Future – in which current and former foster children and homeless youth came together to learn life skills and talk about what we could do as a nation to overcome the obstacles they face every day. I just received their conference report. And it contains some important messages for all of us. It says we need more awareness about this issue. It says young people aging out of foster care need medical insurance. It says they need training and education. In short, it says we must make greater investments in their lives.

Now, we know that there are countless states, counties, and communities – many in this room -- that are helping to meet these challenges. And often they are doing so as a result of the advocacy and leadership of former foster kids.

I've heard about programs in Texas and Florida that provide college tuition to state schools for young people in foster care who are accepted. In Los Angeles County, entry-level jobs are set-aside for young people aging out of the foster care system. And like other Independent Living Programs, New York's is helping young people aging out of foster care with school, jobs, housing and the other tools they need to build their lives. One of them, Analeah Charles, is here with us today.

What we must do is take these success stories and work to replicate them in every community across this country.

That's why I'm so pleased to announce that the President's budget over the next five years will include \$280 million to help former foster children make the transition to independence -- and make the most of their lives.

We're increasing funding for the Independent Living Program by 50 percent -- and giving foster children more help finishing high school, getting a job, and finding a place to live.

We're offering \$50 million in new competitive grants – so that the states can continue to provide economic support to former foster children during their difficult transition.

We want to help more community-based programs that are giving homeless youth places to live and skills to build their futures. And I am pleased to announce that we are increasing funding for the Transitional Living Program by 33 percent.

And finally, the President's budget says that young people who age out of foster care should be eligible for Medicaid until they are 21. For too many young people, leaving foster care means losing their insurance. In the greatest, richest country in the world, these young people should never find themselves among the ranks of the uninsured.

Clearly we don't have all the answers -- and we cannot do it alone. But, in this budget, is a major new commitment to an issue too long overlooked. And now if leaders of all political parties will come together, if states and communities will make a commitment to find even more creative ways to reach these young people, and if all of you will continue to make your voices heard... then we can make this the year that we worked together to give every young person leaving foster care the support, guidance, love and opportunity that all young people need and deserve.

And when we do it will be because of the young people who told their courageous stories...and inspired our country to live up to its greatest test -- of how we treat the most vulnerable among us.

It will be because of young people such as Terry Harrak [her-Rock]. When Terry turned 18, she was a senior in high school. But she soon found herself without foster care...without a job, without a place to call home. Night after night, she slept over at teachers and friends' homes, in metro terminals and hospital emergency rooms. But day after day, she continued school. And, as June, she graduated.

Today, she is a participant in the Living Independently for Tomorrow program in Alexandria Virginia. She has a place to live, a job and community college to attend, and people to guide and support her. And she is here with us today. It is my great honor to introduce Terry Harrak [her-Rock]...

Terry...

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Remarks at Destination Future '98
4-H Club
September 11, 1998

Thank you. Thank you Joy and thank you all for inviting me to be here. I am very happy and delighted to be here with Joy and Erica on the stage, and all of you who are using your experience and energy on behalf of yourselves and other young people in the foster care system and those who have transitioned out of it, looking for ways to use your experience to make all of our systems, and the lives that they affect, better.

I want to thank Carol Williams for her leadership and her stalwart advocacy on behalf of children and youth. I have had the pleasure of working with Carol over a number of years now and many of the changes that we try to make on behalf of a better improved foster care and adoption system are because of her dedication.

I want to thank Jim Walker and all of you who are associated with the National Resource Center for caring about this extraordinarily important group of people in our country. I want to thank Donna Hughes for the National Network which I think is one of the best ways we can keep the issues of foster care, adoption and our systems that affect young people on the front burner.

As Joy mentioned, I was privileged to meet with a group of young people who were active in the California Youth Connection. And I was so impressed. My staff, my friends, my husband and my daughter know that I have talked about that meeting many times since then. I was impressed by the intelligence, the thoughtfulness and honesty of those young people who were still in the foster care system and those who have aged out of it.

And I came away from that meeting even more committed to do whatever I can do to try and make sure that your voices are heard. Because there isn't any doubt in my mind that after having been involved with foster care for more than twenty eight or nine years now, that there are any voices that are more important than yours.

And I have a feeling that this is the right time for those voices to be heard. That the issues that you will discuss this weekend will not just be left here when you go back to your states and communities but they will serve as a blueprint for what else we need to be doing here in Washington and in state capitals with organizations like the Resource Center and in networks around our country.

I thought a lot about why I have been so committed to and concerned about foster care for so many years. And I think it is for a number of reasons. I knew growing up that my mother had

not been in formal foster care, but she had found it impossible to remain with her parents who were both teenagers when she was born many years ago. She was sent to live with a set of her grandparents, and that did not work out, so she went to work in the home of a family where she worked for room and board and a place to live, helping to take care of the children of that family. And that is how she got through high school.

When she ended high school, she had nowhere to go, and she didn't feel that she had a family that she could go to. When I was growing up, we often had the help of young women who were on the brink of aging out the foster care system -- not from any foster home with a family, but from what we would now call a group home. So, three or four of these young women would come and work with my mother as she had been worked with when she was a young woman.

My mother has often told me how grateful she is to the woman with whom she lived because she got to see a real family. She got to watch what happens inside a home where parents and children went through all they should go through in a family, because she never had that. And she wanted to give that opportunity to other young women as well.

When I was in law school, I now refer to it as Joy's law school -- Yale Law School -- I began working with legal services in New Haven, Connecticut. And the cases that came my way were cases involving foster children. Difficult cases of trying to decide if children should remain with that child's biological parents, to be put into foster care to be adopted out of foster care or sent to group homes -- all of the issues you have struggled with first hand.

And I saw through the cases that I handled, in the children and adults I represented, how difficult it was to make the decision that was best for the children. And often it wasn't a matter of people being mean spirited or malicious, it was just that they were very difficult decision.

And so for all of those years since then, I have tried to keep my attention on the foster care system. But I don't think that any one of us who have worked in it all these years really had the benefit of an organized way of hearing from the people who truly had the most to say about it -- those of you who had seen that system in a very personal way.

I wanted to come today to do several things. To ask you to be as honest and as helpful as you possibly can this weekend and throughout the year. To make sure that every decision-maker in every community, state and at the national level, knows what you know. And we will do what we can to amplify your voices so that your knowledge carries as far as possible.

Secondly, I think it is time for those of you who are on the front-line with this expertise to become our partners in improving and reporting these systems. As Carol Williams said, you have made progress, and I am very grateful for that progress. The administration, particularly the President, has brought to the forefront issues of foster care and adoption that had never been there before.

We have had events in the Oval Office at the White House where foster children, foster parents, social workers and advocates gathered to get the message out to our countries about how many children are in foster care and what your -- what their needs are.

We have passed laws like the Family and Medical Leave Law which encourages and gives time off to parents who adopt a child. We've provided a tax credit and an even higher tax credit to families who adopt children with medical or other problems. We have worked very hard to make foster care and adoption free from discrimination based on race, culture and ethnicity.

And last year, there was a historic step taken on behalf of foster care and adoption when, after a lot of hard work by many people, the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. That Act is aimed at improving the foster care and adoption system and particularly improving the decision-making process, so that a decision can be made in a more orderly, effective and a timely manner, as to whether a child can return home, whether a child should be and can be placed for adoption and then be placed as quickly as possible to create permanent solutions.

When the President signed that bill he said that we have laid the building blocks of what children should have as their basic fundamental rights -- a decent safe home, an honorable, orderly, positive upbringing -- a chance to live out their dreams and their God-given capacities.

So there has been progress. But I am not here to tell you that we have made anywhere near the progress we need to or we have to. Certainly what was done in the bill that was signed last year will help us move toward our national goal of doubling our national adoption rate. We want the laws to be friendly to people who are in the process of adopting, and we have put into place some safeguards and changes that we hope will make that possible.

For example, the bill shortens the time that a state has to place kids in permanent homes. It strengthens supports to help keep families together when that is possible, and when it is not, to make the decision to move on.

Most importantly, the legislation makes the health and safety of children the first priority. There are over 100,000 young children in our foster care system. That is way too many. We have to be more creative and more determined to do whatever we can to bring those numbers down, because we know there are many unmet needs of those children who are in our foster care system. But one of those needs that has not gotten the attention it deserves is what happens when you age out the system. And that is what I heard a lot about when I met with the group of young people in California last year.

About 65,000 young people like yourselves will age out the system in the next three years. What can we do better to help you to help them? I heard a lot of advice last year and we are attempting to act on that. We want to address the important needs that young people face when their eighteenth birthday arrives.

That is why I am pleased today to announce a series of grants -- more than \$1 million devoted to making state and local programs that serve young people to work better for the young people they serve. These grants from the Department of Health and Human Services are aimed at giving nine states more assistance in strengthening how they deal with young people.

We want to do a better job in independent living. We want to do a better job in making sure you have the services you need as you transition out and afterward.

We know very well, and I have heard from numbers of young people who are on the brink or who have already aged out of the system, that you face extraordinary challenges.

Many foster youth face homelessness or difficulty finishing high school or enrolling in college or finding a job. And great difficulty in meeting health care needs, which means that you have nowhere to turn and will be uninsured, and are not getting those skills you require to live independently.

Now we know there are programs around the country that are working, and we want to hear honestly from you what works and what doesn't work. I learned for example, that because of advocacy of foster youth around our country programs in Texas and Florida promote college tuition assistance to young people in foster care. In Los Angeles County, set-aside entry level jobs are available for those who are aging out of foster care. Massachusetts has a teen parent transitional living program to help young mothers who are aging out of foster care with parenting and transitional living assistance.

And the California Youth Connection is becoming a national model of how to bring young teens and older young people together to form a network of support and advocacy. We are finally seeing some movement on behalf of older foster youth and those that have transitioned out. So this is a perfect time for you to be meeting to give us advice and to organize yourselves so that you can be sure to have an impact on the policies that are set.

We must strengthen the Federal Independent Living Program which provides 85,000 young people with critical help on their transition to independence. It helps young people like yourselves get a high school diploma and access to vocational training. It helps you learn the daily living skills that we all need like budgeting and finding a place to live.

But we have to review this program and evaluate its effectiveness and we need your help. Now some adults have a hard time admitting that being an adult doesn't mean that we have all the answers. We know we don't. We certainly can't pretend in front of you that we do. We want you to help us find the best possible answer to the issues and challenges we face.

I believe that the American people need to know more about our foster care system and particularly those who are aging out of it. Most Americans don't know. But if they do know, we have found that they are responsive. More than three quarters of citizens polled about

foster care strongly supported services that assist teens that are making that transition, and even said that they would be willing to pay more taxes to provide job placement, college tuition assistance and housing.

But if we don't get the information out to them, and your stories aren't told and your experiences aren't shared, then people won't know. And I want to emphasize something that Joy mentioned when she introduced me. I imagine that many of you who have been in foster care spend a considerable amount of time trying to avoid telling people that -- trying to pretend it wasn't so. And it may seem perhaps a little odd to be asked to share your experiences now, to talk about what you learned and what you saw or what could be better. But we have no better resources than each of you.

I remember very well the big event in the East Room of the White House a few years ago. I invited various states to come with children who were in the foster care system who were waiting for adoption. And I wanted Americans to know that there were a lot of good, smart, saavy, sweet young people who were in our foster care system who would be an asset to any family.

One young woman from Kansas came with a poem she had written. And she stood up and she talked about her experience of being taken away from her family because of abuse, and how she was abandoned. From the time I was in the White House, she was thirteen and had been in five or six foster homes and because of various situations she was living in a group home.

She stood up to read her poem. She said she really didn't want a lot. She said "I want a place that I can call home. A place that I can call my own. A family I can love that loves me back." Somebody heard that poem and decided to adopt her.

I want every American to hear those words and be heard. Just as I listened to the stories of my mother and saw how determined she was that the family she had would never have the problems that she faced. I think there is a lot of people in America who want to hear about your brilliance and hope and grit and determination. And I for one, whenever I can, will make sure those lessons and your voices get heard.

Thank you all very much.

Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Gore, Ms. [Terry] Harrach, advocates and other distinguished guests.

It's a pleasure to welcome all of you to the East Room of the White House.

There's an old proverb that says a hero is someone "who knows how to hang on one minute longer."

By that definition, some of our nation's biggest heroes are right in this room.

Children in foster care – and adoptive families – know all about hanging on. Not just for minutes. But for months and often for years.

Now, however, thanks to the President, Mrs. Clinton, the Vice-President and Mrs. Gore, the time for hanging on is growing shorter and easier.

Under the President's leadership we have joined hands to really help these children and families – some of who may believe that the word "forgotten" was invented just for them.

It wasn't.

This Administration has made improving foster care and speeding adoption one of its highest priorities.

In 1996, as part of his *Adoption 2002* strategy, the President redrew our national blueprint for adoption.

He called for less bureaucracy, fewer racial and ethnic barriers to adoption, more support for families, and most important, . . .

. . . a doubling of adoptions and permanent placements by the year 2002.

To turn this blueprint into reality, Congress passed and the President signed, the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

The Act shortened the time frame for placement decisions, guaranteed health insurance coverage for all special needs children in subsidized adoptions, offered financial incentives to states to increase adoptions, and funded services to help keep families together.

The early results are very encouraging. Adoptions were up almost 20 percent between 1995 and 1997 – with more than half of that increase coming in 1997.

So we're heading in the right direction, and we expect this increase to continue.

But this Administration's record of accomplishment doesn't stop here.

The President signed – and later strengthened – the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act to make sure that love and stability, not race and culture, are the basis for adoption.

We're making adoption more affordable by offering a 5,000 dollar tax credit to families adopting children – and a 6,000 dollar tax credit for families adopting children with special needs.

Since 1993, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with federal assistance has increased by more than 60 percent.

This Administration also recognizes that some of the best ideas for increasing adoptions come from our state and local partners.

So we have already granted waivers to 18 states giving them more flexibility in how they meet the needs of children and families.

We've even brought adoption and foster care into cyberspace.

Last November we began work on a plan that will expand the use of the Internet to share information about children who are legally free for adoption.

We're proud of all these accomplishments. Proud – but not satisfied, because there is still a great deal of work to be done.

And that's why we're here. To make sure we keep working together.

* * *

The people in this room – and across this nation – who are working so hard to give every child a loving home are themselves a large extended family.

But even this extended family needs a leader. And she's sitting [behind] me.

I've worked with the First Lady for two decades as she's crusaded for a better life for children. Part of that crusade has been championing adoption.

No one has worked harder; spoken longer; thought more creatively; or been more of a wellspring of hope than the First Lady.

Like her hero Eleanor Roosevelt, she has changed America forever and for the better.

Mrs. Clinton . . .

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P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

[001]

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999****FINAL****WASHINGTON, D.C.****U.S. CONFERENCE OF
MAYORS ADVANCE:****GRACE GARCIA****202/208-4693****PHONE**

P6/(b)(6)

PAGER**U.S. CONFERENCE OF
MAYORS PRESS ADVANCE:****STEPHEN LAMB****202/219-3719****PHONE**

P6/(b)(6)

PAGER**SCHEDULER:****WENDY ARENDS****202/456-7007****PHONE****202/456-5340****FAX**

P6/(b)(6)

HOME**WHCA PAGER****#4781****PREV RON****The White House****12:30pm-****DROP-BY** with Mary Francis Berry**12:40pm**

Map Room

CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO**PARTICIPANTS:**

The First Lady

Mary Francis Berry

12:40pm-**DROP-BY** with Ramapo Children of Chernobyl**12:55pm**

Diplomatic Reception Room

CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO**PARTICIPANTS:**

The First Lady

22 Russian singers

12:55pm**PROCEED** to Old Executive Office Building**1:00pm-****OPL BUSINESS BRIEFING****1:15pm**

Indian Treaty Room

Old Executive Office Building

CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999****PAGE 2****FORMAT:**

- Ellen Lovell introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion, the First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 75-100 guests

1:20pm **DEPART** West Executive Drive
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE Capital Hilton Hotel
[Drive time: 5 minutes]

1:25pm **ARRIVE** Capital Hilton Hotel

GREETERS:

Hotel Manager

1:30pm- **MEET AND GREET**
1:40pm Continental Room
Capital Hilton Hotel
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: 12 guests

1:45pm- **REMARKS TO U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**
2:10pm Presidential Ballroom
Capital Hilton Hotel
HRC Hold: Continental Room
Phone: 202/639-5400
Fax: 202/639-5444
OPEN PRESS/WH PHOTO

FORMAT:

- The First Lady and Mayor Deedee Corradini, President, U.S. Conference of Mayors, are announced into the Presidential Ballroom by Mayor Wellington Webb, Vice President, U.S. Conference of Mayors.
- The First Lady and Mayor Corradini proceed onto stage.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999****PAGE 3**

- Mayor Corradini makes welcoming remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks.
- Upon conclusion, the First Lady departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 280 guests

2:15pm **DEPART** Capital Hilton Hotel
VIA Motorcade
EN ROUTE South Portico
[Drive time: 5 minutes]

2:15pm-
2:55pm **DOWN TIME**

3:00pm-
3:05pm **BRIEFING [w/MRS. GORE]**
Red Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS:
The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Nicole Rabner
Trooper Sanders

3:05pm **PROCEED** to Blue Room

3:05pm-
3:15pm **MEET AND GREET [w/MRS. GORE]**
Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Please consult briefing book for participants.

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999****PAGE 4**

3:15pm-

FOSTER CARE EVENT [w/MRS. GORE]

4:00pm

East Room

OPEN PRESS/WH PHOTO**FORMAT:**

- The First Lady and Mrs. Gore, accompanied by Secretary Shalala, and event participants are announced from the Blue Room into the East Room.
- Secretary Shalala makes welcoming remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Terry Harrak.
- Terry Harrak makes remarks and introduces Mrs. Gore.
- Mrs. Gore makes remarks and introduces John Guiterrez.
- John Guiterrez makes remarks.
- The First Lady thanks guests for attending and departs.

PARTICIPANTS: 180 guests

4:00pm-

PRIVATE MEETING

4:30pm

Residence

CLOSED PRESS/NO WH PHOTO**PARTICIPANTS:**

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Audrey Haynes
Peter Knight
Craig Smith
Melanne Verveer

RON

The White House

January 29, 1999

**EVENT ANNOUNCING NEW SUPPORT FOR
TRANSITIONING FOSTER CARE YOUTH**

Date: January 29, 1999
Time: 3:00pm- 4:00pm
Location: East Room
From: MaryEllen McGuire

I. PURPOSE

To announce the President's FY 2000 budget initiatives supporting transitioning foster care youth.

II. BACKGROUND

The President's FY 2000 Initiative

The President's FY 2000 budget will include \$280 million over five years to provide a framework for enhanced federal support to foster youth transitioning into adulthood. The specific initiatives are as follows:

- A 50 percent Increase in the Federal Independent Living Program. The Independent Living Program, run through the States, assists older foster care children to prepare for independence by helping them to earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment. Since 1992, the program's funding has been frozen at \$70 million. The President's budget will increase the program by 50 percent, investing \$175 million over five years in these services.
- Time Limited Economic Support. Young people often transition from foster care with no economic support. The President's budget will include \$50 million over four years to create new competitive grants to States to complement the Independent Living program services by providing time-limited financial support for these young people as they develop the skills and education needed to move into the workforce.
- Health Insurance. Today, when young people emancipate from foster care, they face numerous health risks, but too often lose their health insurance. The President's budget will propose that these young people remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21. His budget will include \$50 million over five years for this purpose.
- 5 Million Dollar Increase in the Transitional Living Program. The President's budget will include a 33 percent increase in the Transitional Living program, which provides competitive funds to local community-based organizations for residential care, life skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents, ages 16-21. The program is

currently funded at \$15 million; the President's budget will increase that funding by \$5 million to \$20 for FY 2000.

Emancipated Foster Youth

Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year having reached the age of 18 without an adoptive family or other permanent relationship. Today, federal financial support for these young people ends just as they are making the critical transition to independence. Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth are not adequately prepared for life on their own. Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Nicole Rabner
Trooper Sanders

Meet and Greet

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Jody Butler, Strategic Coordinator for the National Foster Care Awareness Project
Ruth Massinga, CEO, Casey Family Program
Richard Ford, President, Board of Trustees, Casey Family Program
Robin Nixon, Child Welfare League of America
Ralph Smith, Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Pat Latke, Homeless Outreach Worker (Works extensively with Mrs. Gore.)
Terry Harrak, Former Foster Care Youth, Program Speaker
John Guiterrez, Former Foster Care Youth, Program Speaker
Dorothy Forsyth, Foster Care Mother
Eight Additional Foster Care Youth (See attached bios.)

East Room

The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Terry Harrak, Former Foster Care Youth
John Guiterrez, Former Foster Care Youth

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- The First Lady and Mrs. Gore proceed to the Red Room for briefing
- The First Lady and Mrs. Gore proceed to the Blue Room for meet and greet
- The First Lady, Mrs. Gore, Secretary Shalala and ten former foster care youth are announced into the East Room
- The First Lady, Mrs. Gore, Secretary Shalala and two foster care speakers proceed to the stage
- Secretary Shalala makes remarks and introduces The First Lady
- The First Lady makes remarks and introduces Terry Harrak
- Terry Harrak makes remarks and introduces Mrs. Gore
- Mrs. Gore makes remarks and introduces John Guterrez
- John Guterrez makes remarks
- The First Lady thanks guests for attending and depart

V. PRESS PLAN

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Laura Schiller.

President's List

FOSTER CARE CEREMONY - Friday JAN 29 1999 - 3:00 PM White House - Business - East Visitors Entrance

Page 1

THE FIRST LADY

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Mary Lee Allen**
Director of Child Welfare and Mental Health Division, Children's Defense Fund
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Maureen Andrews**
Vocational Consultant, The Casey Family Program - Tucson Division
Tucson, AZ
- A **Ms. Dorothy Ansell**
Ansell and Associates
Tampa, FL
- A **Mr. James D. Clark (Substitute for: Robert Arnold)**
- A **Dr. Bernard Arons**
Center for Mental Health Services
- A **Dr. Wendy Auslander**
George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Saint Louis, MO
- A **Dr. Amy Baker**
Director of Research, Children's Village
Dobbs Ferry, NY
- A **Ms. Susan Bales**
Benton Foundations
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Cindy Seasler Ballard**
Director, Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth
Kansas City, MO
- A **Ms. Kathy Barbell**
Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC
- Ms. Leigh Barr**
Case Assistant, The Casey Family Program-Phoenix Division
Phoenix, AZ
- A **Dr. Richard P. Barth**
Frank A. Daniels Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
- Ms. Kerry Bennedeto**
Human Resources Manager, United Parcel Service
Atlanta, GA
- Ms. Joan Berger**
Manager of Community Relations, Campbell Soup Company
Camden, NJ
- A **Mr. Steve Bewsey**
Life Works
Austin, TX

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REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Mary Bourdette**
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, US Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Mrs. Judith Brotman**
Director of Government Relations, School Social Work Association
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Betty Juan Brown**
President, Foster Parent Association
Baltimore, MD
- Ms. Ruth Goreber (Substitute for: Cindy Brown)**
- A **Ms. Judith Ann Butler**
Executive Director, Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities
Washington, DC
Guest: Mr. Edwin Rothschild
- A **Ms. Donna Butts**
Executive Director, Generations United
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Michele Cahill**
Vice President, Youth Development Institute
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Julia Larson Calhoun**
Laurel Foundation
Seattle, WA
- A **Ms. Analeah Charles**
- A **Ms. Barbara Clark**
Staff, Department of Health & Human Services
- Mr. James Clark**
- A **Mr. Phillip Coltoff**
Executive Director, Children's Aid Society
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Ronna Joy Cook**
Senior Study Director, Westat, Inc.
Rockville, MD
- A **Dr. Mark Courtney**
School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin System
Madison, WI
- A **Ms. Beverly Hardy (Substitute for: Gloria Cousar)**
- A **Mr. James Knapp (Substitute for: Terry Cross)**
- A **Dr. Patrick Curtis**
Director of Research and Evaluation, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Ellen Margaret Dahl**
Special Assistant, Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Howard Davidson**
Director, Center for Children & the Law
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Dixie Jo Van de Flier Davis**
The Adoption Exchange
Aurora, CO
- A **Ms. Cynthia Leigh Diehm**
Director, National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth
Silver Spring, MD
- A **Mr. Peter Digre**
Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services
Los Angeles, CA
- A **Ms. Margaret Duarte**
- Mr. Glenn Eagleson**
New Ways Workers
San Francisco, CA
- Mr. John Emerson**
Director of Education, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- A **Dr. Diana English**
Research Director, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Seattle, WA
- A **Ms. Heitzi Epstein**
Child Welfare Project Director, National Association of Child Advocates
Washington, DC
- Ms. Maureen Fallon**
Independent Living Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Boston, MA
- A **Mr. Frank Farrow**
Director, Children's Services Policy
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Laura Felg**
Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
- A **Ms. Laura Fieg**
- A **Mr. Richard Ford**
President, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- A **Mr. Joseph Forsyth**
Guest: Ms. Dorothy Forsyth

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REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Mary Furnas**
Independent Living Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Social Services
Lincoln, ME
- A **Mr. Kevin Garvey**
Training Development Manager, United Parcel Service
Laurel, MD
- A **Mr. Robert K. Reeg (Substitute for: Mary Gleason)**
- A **Mr. Adam Gluck**
- A **Ms. Sasha Gluck**
- A **Hon. Olivia A. Golden**
Assistant Secretary for Children & Families, Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. William Gorham**
President, Urban Institute
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Carolyn R. Gould**
Executive Director, South Bronx Human Development Organization
New York, NY
- A **Hon. Ernestine Gray**
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
New Orleans, LA
- A **Dr. Tom Grayson**
Director, Transition Research Institute, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
Champaign, IL
- A **Mr. Anthony Thomas Grazio**
Director, Maryland Department of Human Resources
Baltimore, MD
- A **Ms. Sarah Greenbelt**
Director, National Resource Center for Permanency Planning
New York, NY
- A **Mr. Thomas Vincent Griffith**
Director, Living Classrooms Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Mr. John Moses Gutierrez**
Guest: Ms. Clare Faulkner
- A **Ms. Marva Livingston Hammonds**
Director, Michigan Family Independence Agency
Lansing, MI
- A **Ms. Lynn Harman**
Fund Raiser, Children's Aid Society

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Terry Harrack**
- A **Mr. Lorenzo Harrison**
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Cheryl Hayes**
Executive Director, Finance Project
Washington, DC
- Ms. Deborah Hayes**
Youth Advocacy Center
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Shirley Hedges**
President, National Foster Parent Association
Madisonville, KY
- A **Mr. Gay Elonor Couiter (Substitute for: Jann Heffner)**
- A **Ms. Ashley Marie Rhodes-Couiter (Substitute's Guest: Jann Heffner)**
- A **Ms. Talmira Hill**
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Mr. James Hine**
Executive Director, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
Austin, TX
- A **Ms. Della M. Hughes**
Executive Director, National Network of Runaway & Youth Services
Washington, DC
- Ms. Lupe Humphrey**
Independent Living Coordinator, California Department of Social Services Child Care/Cla-Learn Section
Sacramento, CA
- A **Dr. Vera Jackson**
Chief Executive Officer, Residential Youth Services
Alexandria, VA
- Ms. Lyn Jennings**
Department of Labor
Washington, DC
- A **Dr. David Richard Johnson**
Director, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
- A **Ms. Nancy Johnson**
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services
Pittsburgh, PA
- A **Ms. Pam Johnson**
Deputy Associate Commissioner, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Dr. Elizabeth Jones**
Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine
Portland, ME
- A **Ms. Ernestine F. Jones**
General Receiver, Child and Family Services
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Barbara Kaltenbach**
- A **Mr. Fred Karnas**
Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Janet Knipe**
Statewide Coordinator, California Youth Connection
San Francisco, CA
- A **Mr. Mark Kroner**
Program Director, Lighthouse Youth Services
Cincinnati, OH
- A **Ms. Patricia Letke-Alexander**
- Mr. J. Dean Lewis**
President, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Spotsylvania, VA
- A **Mr. David Liederman**
Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Jay Lindgren**
Executive Director, Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
Providence, RI
- A **Ms. Janet Legler Luft**
Independent Living Coordinator, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
Austin, TX
- A **Dr. Gerold Mallon**
Associate Executive Director, NYC Program, Green Chimney's Children's Services
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Ruth Massinga**
The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- A **Mr. Richard Matt**
Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Family Services
Jefferson City, MO
- A **Mr. John Mattingly**
Senior Associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Leah McBride**
- A **Ms. Eileen McCaffrey**
Orphan Foundation of America
Vienna, VA
- A **Ms. Kerry McCallum**
Community Relations Manager, United Parcel Service
- A **Hon. Frank Scott McCown**
District Judge, 345th District Court
Austin, TX
- A **Sister Mary Rose McGeady**
President & CEO, Covenant House
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Maureen McLaughlin**
- A **Dr. Edmund Mech**
University of Illinois-Urbana/Campaign
Urbana, IL
- Ms. Mary Mentaberry**
Project Director, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Reno, NV
- A **Ms. Endolyn Merritt**
- A **Ms. Maureen T. Messenger**
Associate Director of Adolescent Services, Massachusetts Department of Social Work
- A **Ms. Patricia Montoya**
Southwest Director, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Dallas, TX
- A **Ms. Joan Morgan**
Executive Director, New Yorkers for Children
New York, NY
- A **Mr. Thomas D. Morton**
President and Chief Executive Officer, Child Welfare Institute
1349 West Peachtree, GA
- A **Mr. Richard Murphy**
Director, National Center for Youth Development
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Danielle Nabinger**
National Association of Court Appointed Special Advocate
Atlanta, GA
- Mr. Kent C. Nelson**
Chairman and CEO, United Parcel Service
Atlanta, GA

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Mr. Robin Elizabeth Hartman Nixon**
 Director of Youth Services, Child Welfare League of America
 Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Susan Notkin**
 Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
 New York, NY
- A **Dr. Michael Olenick**
 Vice President, Youth Services Division, Community College Foundation
 Sherman Oaks, CA
- A **Ms. Rosalyn Oreskovich**
 Assistant Secretary, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
 Olympia, WA
- A **Mr. Patrick Patrong**
 Independent Living Coordinator, Maryland Department of Human Resources
 Baltimore, MD
- A **Mr. Alfred Gene Perez**
 California Youth Connection
 San Francisco, CA
- A **Dr.. William Pierce**
 President, National Council for Adoption
 Washington, DC
Guest: Ms. Susan Medalie
- A **Mr. Michael Piraino**
 National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association
 Seattle, WA
- A **Ms. Karabelle Pizzigati**
 Director of Public Policy, Child Welfare League of America
 Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Anthony Podesta**
 President, Podesta Associates, Inc.
 Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Gordon Alfred Raley**
 President/CEO, National Assembly of Health and Human Services Organization
 Washington, DC
- Ma. Pat Reynolds**
 Program Officer, Stuart Foundation
 San Francisco, CA
- A **Mr. Robert Robertson**
 Associate Executive Director, Valley Youth House
 Allentown, PA
- A **Ms. Miriam Rollin**
 Director of Advocacy, National Network for Youth
 Washington, DC

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Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Nan Roman**
Vice President, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- A **Ms. Betsey Rosenbaum**
American Public Human Services Association
Washington, DC
- Ms. Sandra Rudnick**
Chairman of the Board, United Friends of Children
Culver City, CA
- Ms. Teresa Scannell**
Corporation for National Service
- Mrs. Carmen Schulze**
Director, Missouri Department of Social Services
Jefferson City, MO
- A **Mr. Nicholas Scopetta**
Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services
New York, NY
- A **Ms. Ann Segal**
Deputy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Hon. Donna E. Shalala**
Secretary of Health & Human Services, Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Carol Shauffer**
Staff Attorney, Youth Law Center
San Francisco, CA
- A **Mr. Rico Shaw**
- A **Mr. Ralph Smith**
Vice President, Annie Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Mr. Mark I. Soler**
Executive Director, Youth Law Center
Washington, D.C.
- A **Mr. Matthew Ward Stagner**
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC
- Ms. Patricia H. Stell**
Seattle, WA
- A **Ms. Carol Stevenson**
Director of Research and Grants, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Los Altos, CA
- A **Ms. Jane Talley**
Washington, DC

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REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Accepts and No Responses

- A **Ms. Tess Thomas**
Seattle, WA
- A **Ms. Teresa Tod**
Director, Texas Network of Youth Services
Austin, TX
- A **Mr. Raymond Torres**
Executive Director, Casey Family Services
Shelton, CT
- Mr. Steve Trippe**
New Ways Workers
San Francisco, CA
- A **Dr. Charles Lynn Usher**
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
- A **Ms. Cynthia Walker**
Federal Independent Living Coordinator, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. James Walker**
Director, National Resource Center for Youth Services
Tulsa, OK
- A **Ms. Joy Warren**
California Youth Connection
San Francisco, CA
- A **Mr. Hugh Weathers**
Coordinator, Environmental Justice, International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Laura Weir**
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Susan Weiss**
Director of Advocacy, The Casey Family Foundation
Seattle, WA
- A **Mr. Stanley Wellborn**
Director, External Affairs, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- A **Ms. Carol Williams**
Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Gina E. Wood**
Department of Justice
Washington, DC
- A **Ms. Terri Faye Yaden**

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REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Accepts and No Responses

- A **Hon. Kenneth W. Kizer (Substitute for: Gary Yates)**
Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC
- A **Mr. Martin Zanghi**
Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine
Portland, ME

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REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
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Regrets

- R **Ms. Bonnie Armstrong**
Consultant
Pasadena, CA
- R **Mr. Robert Arnold**
National Independent Living Association
Jacksonville, FL
- R **Ms. Jane Austin**
Social Worker, The Casey Family Program - San Diego Division
San Diego, CA
- R **Dr. Peter Benson**
President, Search Institute
Minneapolis, MN
- R **Mr. Douglas Besharov**
Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Shay Bilchik**
Administrator, U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Raymond Bramucci**
Assistant Secretary - Designate for Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, DC
- R **Ms. Cindy Brown**
Director of Resource Center on Educational Equity, Council of Chief of State School Offices
Washington, DC
- R **Ms. Lucy Carter**
Program Officer, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Los Altos, CA
- R **Mr. Peter Correia**
Associate Director, National Resource Center for Youth Services
Tulsa, OK
- R **Ms. Gloria J. Cousar**
Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Terry Cross**
National Indian Child Welfare
Portland, OR
- R **Ms. Christine M. DeVita**
President, DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund
New York, NY
- R **Mrs. Margaret Dunkle**
Director, Institute for Educational Leadership
Washington, DC
- R **Mrs. Susan M. Eggleston**
Executive Director, Our Town Family Center

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REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Regrets

- R **Hon. Richard Fitzgerald**
Chief Justice, Jefferson Family Court
- R **Mr. James Gann**
General Manager, Red Lobster
Norman, OK
- R **Ms. Mary Ann Gleason**
Interim Director, Natl. Coalition for the Homeless
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Peter Goldberg**
President, Alliance for Children and Families
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Craig Gordon**
Director, Communities for People
Providence, RI
- R **Ms. Carol Goss**
Program Officer, The Skillman Foundation
Detroit, MI
- R **Hon. Richard Guy**
Chief Justice, Washington State Supreme Court
Olympia, WA
- R **Ms. Ethel Harris**
Division Director, The Casey Family Program - Baton Rouge Division
Baton Rouge, LA
- R **Ms. Jann Heffner**
Executive Director, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Dublin, OH
- R **Mr. Louis Henderson**
National Association of Former Foster Care Children of America
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Cornelius Hogan**
Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services
Waterbury, VT
- R **Mr. Michael Horn**
Research Assistant, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Ms. Deborah R. Jospin**
Director, AmeriCorps
Washington, DC
- R **Dr. Carol Kamin**
Executive Director, Children's Action Alliance
Phoenix, AZ
- R **Mrs. Courtney Kardo**
Public Relations, IKEA North America
Plymouth Meeting, PA

For Official Government Use Only

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Regrets

- R **Mr. Ronald Kessler**
Professor, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA
- R **Ms. Kathy Kingery**
Advocacy Specialist, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Ms. Sue Krahe**
Executive Director, Our Town Family Services
Tucson, AZ
- R **Mr. Joseph Kroll**
Executive Director, North American Council on Adoptable Children
St. Paul, MN
- R **Ms. Gilda Lambert**
Depart. of Health and Human Services
- R **Mr. Terry Lewis**
Washington, DC
- R **Dr. Herbert London**
President, Hudson Institute
Indiapolis, IN
- R **Ms. Jean McIntosh**
Chief of Strategic Planning, The Casey Family Foundation
Seattle, WA
- R **Hon. Richard P. Nathan**
Director, Rockefeller Institute
Albany, NY
- R **Mr. Brent Nelser**
Director of Collaborative Programs, National Endowment for Financia Education
Denver, CO
- R **Mr. Douglas Nelson**
President, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- R **Dr. Kim Nollan**
Research Specialist, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Ms. Patricia O'Neal-Williams**
National One Church, One Child, Inc
Tallahassee, FL
- R **Dr. Peter Pecora**
Manager of Research, The Casey Family Program
Seattle, WA
- R **Mr. Michael Pesce**
Division Director, The Casey Family Program - Tuscon Division
Tucson, AZ

For Official Government Use Only

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Regrets

- R **Ms. Sharon Pierce**
President and Chief Executive Officer, The Villages of Indiana
Indianapolis, IN
- R **Mr. Harvey Price**
Interim President, Weingart Foundation
Los Angeles, CA
- R **Ms. Jane Bryant Quinn**
Executive Director, DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund
New York, NY
- R **Dr. Harold A. Richman**
Director, Chapin Hall Center for Children
Chicago, IL
- R **Mrs. Nancy Daly Riordan**
Los Angeles, CA
- R **Mr. Ralph Rogers**
Tex Industries, Inc.
Dallas, TX
- R **Hon. John Specia**
Bexar County Courthouse
San Antonio, TX
- R **Ms. Donna Stark**
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD
- R **Ms. Pam Stevens**
Youth Development Program Director, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
New York, NY
- R **Mr. Gary Strangler**
Director, Missouri Department of Social Services
Jefferson City, MO
- R **Mr. Dave Thomas**
Dave Thomas Foundation
Dublin, OH
- R **Ms. Paula Van Ness**
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. William Waldman**
Executive Director, American Public Human Services Association
Washington, DC
- R **Mr. Gary Walker**
President, Public/Private Ventures
Philadelphia, PA
- R **Dr. Valora Washington**
Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Battle Creek, MI

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REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

Regrets

- R **Ms. Kathryn Way**
- R **Dr. Lois Wright**
Assistant Dean, Center for Child and Family Studies
Columbia, SC
- R **Mr. Gary Yates**
President and CEO, The California Wellness Foundation
Woodland Hills, CA
- R **Ms. Lorraine Zippiroli**
Program Director, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Los Altos, CA
- R **Mr. Alan Zuckerman**
Executive Director, National Youth Employment Coalition

For Official Government Use Only

REPORT DATE: January 28, 1999
REPORT TIME: 12:11 PM

TOTAL COUNTS

Number of Accepts:	143
Number of Regrets:	65
Number of No Responses:	20
Number of Unknown Guests:	0
Number of Expected Attendees:	163

For Official Government Use Only

September 10, 1998

DESTINATION FUTURE CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, September 11
TIME: 2:15 pm - 3:00 pm
LOCATION: National 4-H Center
Chevy Chase, MD
FROM: Brenda Costello and Nicole Rabner

I. PURPOSE

To deliver remarks at the *Destination Future: Youth Leadership Development Conference*, announcing the award of more than \$1 million in new grants to nine states to establish and support effective youth development program strategies at the local level. Your remarks will also serve as an opportunity to highlight your efforts to strengthen the nation's child welfare system and to ensure safety and permanency for all children in foster care.

II. BACKGROUND

Overview

On Thursday afternoon you will deliver remarks at the Opening Session of the 8th annual *Destination Future: Partnerships for Change - Youth Leadership Development Conference* in Chevy Chase, Maryland. You will announce over one million in new grants to nine states. The states receiving the Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project grants are: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon. Each state will receive a grant of \$120,000.

[This is the 8th annual *Destination Future* conference, which brings together foster and homeless youth ages 16-21 receiving independent/transitional living services and their adult sponsors.

Conference

The *Destination Future* conference brings youth and adult leaders from across the country together to build partnerships and promote youth development. Participants learn to network, address youth development issues, improve leadership skills and learn about advocating for change. The conference is specifically geared toward youth ages 16-21 who receive independent living /transitional living services, one of the national events of this kind in the country.

As in years past, the theme of the conference is Leadership Development, with a policy focus. Every other year the conference is held in the Washington, D.C. area, allowing youth conference participants to have access to policy and decision makers, a preference they themselves have communicated. The Conference is sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Resource Center for Youth Services with support from the NRCYD and the National Network for youth.

Youth participants discuss issues and write recommendations, issuing a report at the end of the conference (see 1996 report attached). The goal is to train participants to be better prepared to advocate and present their issues, achieved through a variety of workshops on topics such as how to run meetings, building youth advisory boards, communications, diversity, and youth advocacy. Many state service agencies are interested in hearing from youth, and the conference aims to prepare them to present in such venues as state legislatures. For example, in Texas and Florida, college tuition is free at state schools for youth who are accepted. According to the NRC, the bill which made this possible in Texas was expected to be rejected, but passed after a State Youth Advisory Panel made up of "kids in care" made a presentation during a state legislative hearing on the bill.

The Participants

Approximately 200 youth and their adult sponsors from nearly 20 states will attend this years conference. All foster and homeless youth ages 16-21 receiving independent/transitional living services are eligible to attend. Sponsors can include their social worker, foster parent, youth worker, mentor or volunteer. Some officials from HHS will attend, from the Administration for Children and Families.

Youth participants are selected by states, with the process varying from state to state. Some participants are selected by the state independent living coordinator, some by essay contest, others have volunteered with a state agency. Expenses for travel to the conference are paid for by the state agency's independent living funding.

Format

You will deliver remarks at the Opening Session of the three-day Conference. The Keynote speaker is Erycka Kasse, a community advocate, who will deliver her remarks after you have departed.

Announcement of Grants for Innovative Youth Development Projects

You will announce \$1.08 million in new competitive grants awarded by HHS to nine States to develop and support innovative youth development program strategies at the State and local levels. The new Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project will help the States better address the needs of adolescents and provide positive alternatives and opportunities for youth. By enhancing collaboration at the federal, State, and local levels, the grants will help the selected States identify, develop, and

strengthen their youth development strategies in programs that assist children at risk, such as homeless and runaway youth, abused and neglected children, and others serviced in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The grants will support a youth development philosophy of redirecting youth in high risk situations toward positive pathways of development and instilling in young people a sense of competency, connection to others and to society as a whole, and a belief in control over their lives. The grants will help to refocus programs on the positive outcomes desired by young people rather than the negative outcomes that adults hope to prevent. Positive developmental opportunities meet adolescents' needs while decreasing their exposure to destructive influences and involvement in risky behavior. Successful State and local strategies will be shared with program developers, managers and other youth service professionals across the country. HHS will award \$120,000 to each of the nine States selected -- Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon.

Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is the main federal program that assists children who are emancipating from the foster care system. The intent of the ILP is to offer eligible youth the skills and support needed to become independent, productive members of society. The purpose of the ILP is to provide services to foster care children who are 16 or older to help them to:

- Make the transition to independent living by earning a high school diploma;
- Receive vocational training; and
- Learn daily living skills such as budgeting, locating housing, planning a career, and finding a job.

Begun in 1986, the ILP has been funded at \$70 million annually since 1992. Funds are awarded directly to the States; each State has the freedom to design its own program. There are approximately 85,000 young people participating in ILP across the country.

Studies show that youth who have participated in ILP find the services important and helpful. HHS is about to begin a review and analysis of 10 years of ILP reports from all 50 States and DC to inform the States about best practices and effective services. Once completed, the independent review will be widely distributed.

Statistics and Background of Children Emancipating From Foster Care

Approximately 65,000 young people ages 16 to 18 will be "aging out" of the foster care system in the next three years. A number of recent studies have examined the particular challenges of the adolescent and youth foster care population. These findings include: (1) youth leaving foster care lag far behind the general youth population in high school completion and college enrollment; (2) foster youth have had far more health problems (including mental health problems and cognitive delays) than other

children; (3) former foster youth are disproportionately represented in homeless shelters; (4) foster youth often have more difficulty than others finding a job due to a lack of job skills, transportation, experience, and contacts; (5) a significant number of former foster youth do not feel that they were prepared in life skills areas such as money management and parenting even after participating in Independent Living programs; and (6) former foster care youth often have trouble getting access to health care and mental health care services.

Recent Survey

A recent (6/21/98) national survey of the American public showed strong support for services that assist teens who are making the transition from foster care to independent adulthood. 79% of those polled were willing to pay an extra \$2 in state taxes to provide extended help, including job training and placement services, tuition assistance at state universities, and housing until the teen is able to live independently. The survey was funded by the Casey Family Program, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, and the Child Welfare League of America.

National Resource Center

The National Resource Center is a self-supporting program in the College of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma. Their niche is independent living, and is one of the only national programs in the country dedicated to child welfare services for this age group.

The NRCYD operates two centers, both with the mission of providing professionals with necessary skills to provide quality Youth Development Services. NRCYD also seeks to bring the concept of youth development to the public child-welfare system through the joint efforts of state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and professional service providers. The *NRC for Youth Development* provides training and speakers to states without charge and last year hosted 708 conferences across country (and is federally funded). NRC, for example, provides all child welfare training in the state of Oklahoma. The other, the *NRC for Youth Services*, provides services for a fee, primarily contracting with state agencies.

With an annual budget of \$5.5 million, NRC receives a \$550,000 federal grant annually from the Children's Bureau at HHS. This year the funding was supplemented bringing total federal funding to \$700,000. NRC also publishes materials for youth services which accounts for approximately \$400,000 of its budget.

III. PARTICIPANTS

-The First Lady

-James Walker, Director, National Resource Center

-Carol Williams, Director, Children's Bureau, HHS

-Joy Warren, former foster youth, first year student at Yale Law School. She attended the California Youth Connection/ Adoption event last year in which you participated (see remarks attached).

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- James Walker makes welcoming remarks and introduces Carol Williams, Director, Children's Bureau, HHS.
- Carol Williams makes brief remarks and introduces Joy Warren, California Youth Connection.
- Joy Warren makes brief remarks and introduces The First Lady.
- The First Lady makes remarks and departs.

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Christy Macy.

A REPORT FROM

**Destination:
Future
1998**

**A YOUTH LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

September 11-13, 1998

National 4-H Center

Chevy Chase, Maryland

Presented by

National Resource Center for Youth Services

The University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education

Supported by

National Network for Youth

National Resource Center for Youth Development

PREFACE

The number of children under 18 in foster care has been rising steadily throughout the 1990s. The Children's Defense Fund, using data supplied by the American Public Welfare Association, reports an 18.7% increase in the foster care population during the first half of the decade, from 404,407 in 1990 to 480,249 in 1995. Moreover, studies indicate that a significant number of former foster children eventually wind up on the street, homeless, unemployed, and impoverished.

Even under the best of circumstances, foster care youth face challenges in making the transition to adulthood, and they need all the help they can get in order to become productive members of society. Independent Living/Transitional Living programs that offer assistance in the areas of housing, education, employment, and life skills development, have certainly been a step in the right direction. And yet, once they complete their high school educations and land a job, former foster care youth still need a sense of empowerment that will enable them to make decisions, overcome barriers, and seize opportunities that can lead to a fulfilling life.

The University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRC) is committed to addressing the need for youth to be linked with services that will help them make a successful transition to adulthood. For the past thirteen years NRC has been involved in training, technical assistance, and program planning for agencies

providing independent/transitional living (IL/TL) programs. These programs offer assistance in the areas of housing, education, employment, life skills development, and support to youth leaving care.

Successful transition to adulthood often depends on the youth's ability to make appropriate decisions regarding his or her case plan. Youth who have a sense of self-esteem and who feel empowered are often better equipped to deal with the barriers as well as the opportunities that arise during and after care. By encouraging youth and adults to become partners in making decisions, the youth to learn to take responsibility for themselves and thus feel empowered. This philosophy lies at the core of the youth development movement.

Although the idea of youth development has been around for several years, we have only begun to see consistent movement of agencies involving youth in the development, implementation, and evaluation of their programs. This is done by creating an environment and opportunities where young people feel supported and safe in practicing skills, learning about relationships, and connecting with their communities.

As a result of this movement, agencies have been better able to utilize youth as a resource while empowering them to be more pro-active in the events that occur before and after care.

Recognizing that youth are a tremendous resource, NRC has provided an opportunity for youth and adults involved in IL/TL programs from across the nation to come together and discuss ways to improve programming.

Destination: Future, a youth leadership development conference, allows youth to create solutions to issues they identify within IL/TL programs. Youth learn and practice leadership skills, and learn to be advocates for themselves and others. Youth who attend this conference not only make the system better for themselves, but they also pave the way for those who follow. This report describes *Destination: Future*. It contains discussions and reports which were presented during the conference.

NRC acknowledges the support of, and extends sincere thanks to, the National Network for Youth. A special thanks also to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Carol Williams, Pamela Johnson with the

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Robin Nixon and Maria Garin with Child Welfare League of America and Mary Lee Allen with Children's Defense Fund. These people attended the conference to listen and respond to the ideas of the youth.

The National Resource Center for Youth Services is confident this conference will facilitate open discussion and enhance the partnership between youth and adults. We also hope this report is a catalyst for change in a system that affects our most precious

By encouraging youth and adults to become partners in making decisions, the youth learn to take responsibility for themselves and thus feel empowered. This philosophy lies at the core of the youth development movement.

resource — youth.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

“There must be an equal commitment to helping young people understand life’s challenges and responsibilities and to developing the necessary skills to succeed as adults. What is needed is a massive conceptual shift—from thinking that youth problems are merely the principal barrier to youth development to thinking that youth development serves as the most effective strategy for the prevention of youth problems. Nothing short of a broad national initiative will accomplish this.”

—Karen Pittman, in her testimony before The House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, 1991.

In 1993, The University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services responded to this call for a national initiative by creating *Destination: Future*, a youth leadership conference. In its sixth year, *Destination: Future* has become a premiere conference for youth development. The conference continues to attract youth in out-of-home care from all over the United States to network, learn about leadership and advocacy, and propose solutions to problems they identify. The workshops and activities create opportunities for youth to learn leadership skills and apply these skills to a problem-solving process.

This year’s conference, attended by 198 people representing 15 states and the District of Columbia, was held in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and was highlighted by the presence of First Lady Hillary

Rodham Clinton. In her opening remarks, Mrs. Clinton encouraged young people to take this opportunity to speak up on the issues that affect their lives. “You are the experts,” she told an enthusiastic group of youth in out-of-home care. Mrs. Clinton was clearly interested in the young people’s opinions and experiences, and expressed her desire to receive a copy of the conference report.

Mrs. Clinton was joined at the podium by two former foster care youth: Joy Warren and Eryka Kasse. These young people shared their stories and feelings about growing up in out-of-home care. Perhaps more importantly were their inspiring accounts of the support they were given while in care and the difference it made in their lives. Ms. Kasse received her bachelor’s degree in May 1998. Ms. Warren is pursuing her college degree.

Additional conference presenters included Ann Fry, director of The Better Way, who presented on stress management, comedian Justin Lookadoo, and the steel drum group Pantastik Pan Groove. All three presentations were interactive and enjoyable.

Participants attended workshops as well as large general sessions. Many workshops were designed with two parts. In the first part, participants learned basic ideas and information on topics related to youth leadership. In the second part, participants practiced what they had learned earlier in part one. Workshop topics included creative tips for leading

meetings, workshops and group activities, youth advocacy, designing effective presentations, building youth advisory boards, youth development, getting a job, communication, diversity, self esteem, and stress management.

A major component of *Destination: Future* is the chance for youth and adults to join forces in small groups to discuss pressing issues related to out-of-home care. Each small group is given a focus question. After brainstorming and prioritizing issues, these small groups develop recommendations to address no more than three issues. These recommendations are then reported to the conference participants and a panel of federal officials and youth advocates concerned with children and youth in out-of-home care. This year, *Destination: Future* was honored to host representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Child Welfare League of America, and the Children's Defense Fund.

The focus questions were developed to address two areas of concern. The first area is the Adoption and Safe Families Act. This act has brought about a focus on moving children in care through the system and into a permanent placement more efficiently. As a result, kinship care and adoption of foster care youth have become topics of discussion for those who work with adolescents. Youth were asked to identify what they felt were key

issues for improving kinship care and adoption for foster care youth.

The second area of concern is in preparing youth for transition into adulthood. Child welfare

agencies and youth serving agencies are beginning to look more closely at how they are preparing youth to emancipate. Programs are finding they can help a youth get housing and a job. The challenge comes in making sure the youth have the skills, education and job opportunities to maintain their situation. In response to this concern, we asked youth to respond to questions concerning emancipation, needs of younger foster care youth, educational opportunities and economic opportunities.

The following is a summary of the issues and recommendations developed by each small group in response to their focus question.

The information compiled in this report will be distributed to government officials, advocacy groups, leaders in child welfare and youth services, and members of Congress.

Rap by Rico Shaw "Stop Being Lazy"

Effective training and thing
Funding and support that's what we need
We ain't never got it
We ain't never split it
Community support what's with it
I never had life skills
I supported myself
I thought my parents were trained
But they were insane
I got to move on
cause it's gonna make me cry

Young children with siblings need visitation
Children in care
I never visit my baby brova.
I want to keep custody of my child
but the system says not
I wonder why
they had to let me know
What's your role
Special training was never given to us
Now my baby is living with a lady I don't trust

Uniform guidelines are making me mad
They never told me what age does it start
Can I get services from the start
Know what I'm say'n
These guidelines are making me really sick

Let's just kick the old and start really new
That's what I call old school

Group Reports

GROUP ONE

Focus Question: What are the key issues for improving adoption of foster care youth have become topics of discussion for those who work with adolescents.

Issue #1:

Support for youth & kinship family

Recommendations:

- ◆ Family counseling for new kinship candidates.

- ◆ Draw up a contract, in advance, between the youth and kinship family to state the ground rules.
- ◆ Independent living skills should be presented to the kinship family in order to inform them of what the youth should know upon leaving the independent living program.
- ◆ The caseworker should be made available for monthly visits as well, when needed.

Issue #2:

Money should be consistently reimbursed at the same rate as foster care.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Change the legislation so that all the states will be on the same level.
- ◆ Make it easier for smaller counties to access the money.

Issue #3:

Kinship should be made an available option in every case.

Recommendations:

- ◆ If a child or youth is placed outside of their home, each needs to be told of their kinship options.
- ◆ All workers must be made known of kinship care.
- ◆ On the child's signature line of the initial plan of services and all service plans following, a question with a box to mark "yes" or "no," as to whether the child/youth has been told about the kinship option.
- ◆ Different levels of certification for kinship care.
- ◆ Youth involvement in decisions.
- ◆ More quality time with caseworker.
- ◆ Training and background checks should be made on all kinship placements.
- ◆ Youth involvement in the placement.
- ◆ More programs/activities involving youth with other kinship placements.
- ◆ Require a contract between youth & foster parent.

GROUP EIGHT

Focus Question: What are the key issues for improving kinship care for foster care youth?

Issue #1:

Screening & Evaluations of Kinship Homes

Recommendations:

- ◆ Higher standards — do not place the child in a relative home that maintains the same behaviors and abusive methods as the home from which the child was removed.
- ◆ Training— include teen panels in kinship training.

- ◆ Have ongoing periodic training after the kinship home is approved.
- ◆ Conflict Resolution — equip the kinship provider with effective ways to manage conflict between themselves and the child, between themselves and other family members; this should also be ongoing.
- ◆ Surprise Visits — helpful to the worker to view the true environment and nature of the home.
- ◆ Youth Input — include the youth in the home evaluation every 8 to 12 months.
- ◆ Evaluate kinship homes regularly with the same standards as foster family homes

Issue #2:

Communication (A formal process)

Recommendations:

- ◆ For the purpose of clarification of the goals and objectives and rights and responsibilities of both the youth and are provider.
- ◆ Evaluation of youth's emotional and developmental growth, health and safety issues, problem areas, and planning for the youth's future.
- ◆ Minimum of monthly meeting at the youth's home or a neutral setting. Meeting to include the youth, care provider, case worker, and any other concerned parties.
- ◆ Have available and advocate or mediator if/when necessary to assist with problem solving and conflict resolution.

Issue #3:

Develop Training & Resources

Recommendations:

- ◆ 24-hour Hotline — available to both care giver & child, provides arbitration & mediation, 3-way conference call capabilities, volunteer staff, use existing hotline, option of documentation or confidentiality, set up database with 1-year expiration.
- ◆ Mandatory relationships & parenting training for both kinship provider and teen
- ◆ Mandatory therapeutic training and services
- ◆ Mandatory post care (transitional training)

GROUP TWO

Focus Question: What are the key issues for addressing the needs of emancipating youth?

Issue #1:*Support Services***Recommendations:**

- ◆ Development of support services
- ◆ Maintenance of support services
- ◆ Recruit mentors/sponsors for support — medical resources, community resources, business resources
- ◆ Use former youth as mentors
- ◆ Aftercare support — Social workers/Group/Foster Parents
- ◆ Develop specialized training programs for mentors on foster care issues.

Issue #2:*Lack of preparation***Recommendations:**

- ◆ Lower age for training and funding (13)
- ◆ Monitor homes better and screening of parents
- ◆ Foster parent training specific to I.L. issues
- ◆ Youth involvement in placement decisions
- ◆ Peer counseling
- ◆ More soft skill development (self-esteem, etc.)
- ◆ Utilize skills

Issue #3:*Extension of Age for Assistance***Recommendations:**

- ◆ Health Care — Education — Housing
- ◆ Funding to 21 (Federal)
- ◆ Health care services as needed
- ◆ Education- advanced education, shouldn't be penalized for getting one, financial aid for expenses while at school
- ◆ Public Housing — affordable, open eligibility services to those who need it.

GROUP FOUR

Focus Question: What are the key issues for addressing the needs of emancipating youth?

Issue #1:*Financial Issues***Recommendations:**

- ◆ INSURANCE — medical insurance is greatly needed to obtain medical care (quality). Extension of medical coverage to age 21 or until medical coverage is gained through employer. Also, raise/waive cap amounts on asset and sav-

ings for eligibility of medical coverage. We need to influence state & local officials to approve funding for this purpose.

- ◆ SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS — Need to improve skills and advance education beyond high school/GED. Special funds could be designated for foster care clients and/or tax advantages for private industry contributions. Influence state federal & local officials to grant this approval. Contact businesses for willing participants.
- ◆ EMPLOYMENT — Internships and/or job placement within the public & private sector for foster youth. Offer tax advantages for private (incentives) businesses to offer such. Advocate among professional community to gain willing participants. Also — request consideration among state, local & federal officials for tax advantages.

Issue #2:*Housing/Shelter Issues***Recommendations:**

- ◆ Greater access to affordable housing. (eg: Program similar to Section VIII)
- ◆ More housing opportunities (ie: community based, transitional living)
- ◆ Increased funding for housing in areas less populated
- ◆ Offer hotel, apartment; offer tax breaks / sub-cities

Issue #3:*Support Services***Recommendations:**

- ◆ Every state should produce a handbook that informs youth of their rights & responsibilities.
- ◆ Toll-free (all hours) number for youth to contact counselor and/or case managers for facts about care & legal issues, etc.
- ◆ beepers (800 #) or cell phones issued to state workers for easier access.
- ◆ MENTORS — former youth that were in care
- ◆ "Friend" (other than counselors) that youth can contact for support & help for everyday trials.
- ◆ SAFETY NET — Someone to stand behind them & support them, but not to do everything when youth experiences let downs such as loss of job, failing a school subject, etc.

GROUP THREE

Focus Question: What are the key issues for improving adoption for foster care youth?

Issue #1:

The stereotyping of youth in foster care as "bad kids".

Issue #2:

Teens don't get choices.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Youth need time to get to know a prospective adoptive family.
- ◆ Siblings should be kept together when possible.
- ◆ Address feelings of young people not belonging.

Issue #3:

Lack of education/information about adoption options.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Teens need more information on adoption options.
- ◆ Recruitment of prospective parents in creative ways.
- ◆ Educate prospective parents to needs of teens.
- ◆ Educate state legislators on the needs and costs of teen adoption.

GROUP SEVEN

Focus Question: What are the key issues for improving adoption for foster care youth?

Issue #1:

National Standards

Recommendations:

- ◆ By Standardizing adoption issues would better aid adoption process from state to state.
- ◆ Give incentives for teen adoption, i.e. mandate national tax incentive for families who adopt teens, mandate national funding for college.
- ◆ Shorter waiting periods - mandate national standard of 30 days to show evidence of improvement otherwise process will move forward.
- ◆ Easier access of prospective adoption for background of children/teens - better education of adoption, knowing what they are getting.
- ◆ Standardize parental qualifications nationwide for adoption to take place

Issue #2:

Lack of knowledge of information.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Public service announcement (radio, commercials, ads, etc).
- ◆ Mailouts & brochures (information).
- ◆ Publicize success stories.

- ◆ Internet/Website.

- ◆ Workshops for teens and community.

Issue #3:

Support.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Family counseling services for the kid and the family that adopts.
- ◆ Group for the biological children when parents adopt.
- ◆ Continued monetary support for the adopting family.
- ◆ Training for the adopting family before they adopt.

GROUP FIVE

Focus Question: What are the key issues effecting educational opportunities for youth in transition?

Issue #1:

Lack of information and financial availability about resources, scholarships, and grants.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Organize Million Foster Youth/Homeless Youth March.
- ◆ National campaign for the educational rights of wards of the state/homeless youth.
- ◆ Uniform state tuition waiver.
- ◆ Collaboration between university, HS, & agencies develop fact sheets or availability of grants/loans and requiring financial independence.
- ◆ State educational specialist who develop resource fact sheets on available scholarships & track new ones.
- ◆ Workshops presented by agencies to youth to provide information about available resources - promote the incentive of scholarships in your state to go to school - to increase enrollment in college by foster youth.

Issue #2

Need continued support and services beyond age 18 (non-educational, eg: medical insurance).

Recommendations:

- ◆ Creating an advocacy program (uniform nationwide).
- ◆ Help further support for disabled youth.
- ◆ Create more support groups (for those who want to further their education).
- ◆ Federally mandate continued medical care while in training, apprenticeships, or education. And housing.

Issue #3:

Need more alternative educational opportunities for non-scholastic vocations.

Recommendations:

Year round work programs (ie: summer job program).

- ◆ Incentives to industries who offer internships/mentor programs (ie: GED to work program).
- ◆ Identification of special needs children early on...gear towards alternative educational opportunities.

GROUP SIX

Focus Question: What are the key issues for addressing the needs of younger foster care youth?

Issue #1:

Effective Training & Support (for foster parents).

Recommendations:

- ◆ Independent living
- ◆ Awareness — Community Support - Resources
- ◆ Life Skills — the capacity of foster parents to teach
- ◆ Funding for Training

Issue #2:

Young Children

Recommendations:

- ◆ (young) Siblings w/children in care
- ◆ Visitation
- ◆ Custody — "let's keep them together!"
- ◆ Special training

Issue #3:

Uniform Guidelines.

Recommendations:

- ◆ Whether or not services are offered?
- ◆ At what age group are services offered?
- ◆ What services are available?

GROUP NINE

Focus Question: What are the key issues affecting economic opportunities for youth in transition?

Issue #1:

Lack of Education - This issue not only involves youth, but foster parents and workers

Recommendations:

- ◆ Foster parents are often unaware of educational funds and counseling, therefore they are unable to effectively advocate for youth. Must make training for foster parents mandatory!
- ◆ State Workers are overworked and underpaid.
- ◆ Must make training on independent living mandatory for workers.
- ◆ Provide smaller caseloads that are independent living specific.
- ◆ Provide earlier notification to workers about upcoming independent living youth.
- ◆ Pay increases that would hopefully decrease turnover of employment.
- ◆ Youth in states custody should be given equal education opportunities
- ◆ Waiving college tuition at state supported institutions.
- ◆ Extending stipends to youth enrolled in college or vocational programs.
- ◆ Involvement of community by providing incentives for employers who will sponsor youth in apprentice programs.
- ◆ Mentors.
- ◆ More work programs that help youth find employment upon completion of program.

Issue #2:

Transportation — Lack of transportation is a common problem faced by youth in care

Recommendations:

- ◆ Foster parents need training on how to support young people with employment, how to keep jobs and develop pre-employment skills.
- ◆ Families have a critical role in helping youth move from school to work!
- ◆ Development of more public transportation or equal transportation opportunities for youth who live in rural areas.
- ◆ State to match funds that youth saves for purchase of transportation or insurance costs.
- ◆ Make changes in providing adequate auto insurance for youth.
- ◆ Make drivers licenses more obtainable to youth in care.
- ◆ Less hassle!

Issue #3:

Personal Planning — Independent living skills are not formally taught until age 16. Must expand I.L. programs! Age 11 or 12 is an appropriate age for youth to begin to think about careers!

Recommendations:

- ◆ Provide youth in foster homes, group homes or residential facilities with *mandatory allowances*. By providing youth opportunities to begin budgeting money while in care, the transition to managing money independently will be more successful.
- ◆ Provide stipends for youth who attend and successfully complete independent living skills groups.
- ◆ More resources to provide creative and hands on techniques for independent living skills!

GROUP 1

Kim Wynne
Bruce H. Neilson
Robin Thielemier
Tiffany Hedgspeth
Miranda McLain
Donna M. Lamontagne
Wieman (Sidekick) Emilius
Sheena M. Young
Darryl Fitzgerald
Maryla Robinson
Sherri L. Adams
Christopher Lee
Nicole Johnson
Takisha Thacker
Rosie L. Hobson
Sheri Ramsey
Misty Cheater
Martiqueness Batson
Jean Carpenter-Williams

GROUP 2

Edward Bender
Shaina Andy
Amanda Miller
Cheryl Hughes
Tonya Young-Cary
Reyna Urquizo
Franklin Jones
Thomas Bell
Adam Romero
Rita Cole
Cathy Connelly
Cindy Thomas
Ann Fry
Marie Alarid

GROUP 3

Jill Safran Cox
Tanya Washington
Krista Leigh Karlsson
Rebecah Danielle Adams
Jesse Webb
Kerri L. Riley
Amanda L. Correlez
Lisa D. Allen
Wydell Bulluck
Dedrick McBeth
Claudia Hunter
Alicia Hollis
Jennifer Artis
Magic Hussein
Sherry S. Haines
Stephanie Sachs
Leslie Porter
Adam McKenna

GROUP 4

Arley McNeill
Leonard Burton
Carol Hale
Mary Curd
April Neelley
Tammi Cunningham
William Saul
Sherry McKinney
Eunice Wicks

GROUP 5

Cassie Babel
Edhelena Bravo
Sarah Wikberg
Re'Becca Dryden
Carrie Johnson
Roy Coffey
Mary Ankerholz-Boden
Eryca Kasse
Joe Shivers
James Butler
Barbara Miller
Jessica Wolf
Patricia Mandrell
J.J. Hughes
David Wilson

GROUP 6

Valerie Jenkins
Rebecca Sittig
Brenna Molinary
Sherry Wenzel
Will Winchell
Juanita Diaz
Erica Bailey
Keri Hall
Christina Parker
Elicia Martinez
Emmett Gill

GROUP 7

Kendesi Emboya Mohammed
Adrienne Williams
Kushona Brown
Changa McBryant
Linh Huynh
Lori Ramsey
Katie Garcia
Matt Sheffer
Omar Wright
Jenny Bailey
Toni Harrell
Peggy Edwards
Bonniejune Shivers
Michelle A. Brown
Paul Clements

GROUP 8

Group Nine
Misty Hager
Rebekah Stone
Stacy Jackson
Dawn Hallberg
Kathy Chamberlain
Carol Hayes
T'Neal Hall
Holly Wallace
Dameon Neam
Jennifer Best
Serina Chairez
Galadriel Ridgley
Mary Williams
Tony Horsey

Summary

Several common themes emerged from the multitude of topics. The issue of support was mentioned often. The youth expressed a great need for support for both the youth and the family. Recommendations included counseling, mentors, aftercare, hotlines, and more emotional and financial resources.

The youth were concerned about the lack of information and breakdowns in communication regarding their care. They feel they are not kept informed of their options and that perhaps even the social workers or care givers are unaware of options or resources. The flow of information seems to depend on case workers and there appears to be no consistency. Many of the youth do not feel they see or hear from their case worker enough.

Consistency continues to be a sensitive topic. Youth not only want consistency in financial support, but consistency in other resources and policies as well. When the youth begin to compare notes disparities between states become apparent. Youth find this to be an underlying problem that effects other issues.

The financial aspect in out-of-home care was of particular concern. The need for college tuition, clothes, insurance, housing, and employment for youth in out-of-home care continues to be a primary topic for discussion. Some states have made provisions for college tuition through their legislation. As has been the recommendation in past years, the youth want to see consistent policies and financial resources from one state to next.

Destination: Future has become a springboard for states to participate in youth development and youth involvement. Many states have started youth advisory boards, speaker's bureaus, and newsletters in an effort to educate the community and

legislature regarding the needs of youth in out-of-home care. The conference continues to facilitate communication between youth and adults. Many adults and youth who have attended the conference together claim they have learned to work more effectively as a team.

In addition to promoting youth and adult partnerships, *Destination: Future* empowers youth and promotes youth participation. Youth who were convinced they were the only ones in out-of-home care are often surprised by the number of other youth from across the United States who share their circumstances. This conference helped them to not feel alone and gave them confidence to get involved in activities in their home state.

The conference is packed with motivational speakers, interesting workshops and perhaps most important, ample opportunities for youth and adults to gather in small groups to discuss pressing issues concerning out-of-home care.

The primary goal of this conference is for youth and adults to work together toward a common goal in an environment safe for expression. We have to provide a model that allows everyone to have input. We have to value different opinions and experiences. *Destination: Future* accomplishes its mission and sets a standard for youth development. The result is powerful.

It is our hope the material presented in this report will facilitate changes in policies, and practices in public and private child welfare and youth serving organizations thus impacting the our response to youth.

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*more
homeless
to be added*

**REMARKS FOR MRS. GORE
FOSTER CARE EVENT
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999**

devlin

Thank you Terry for having the courage to come forward with your moving story. Sadly, your story is one that is all too common in our foster care system. One study recently found that as many as four out of every ten people in this nation who are homeless are former foster children.

As we have heard so eloquently today, young people who are emancipated from foster care often lack the independent living skills that would allow them to establish a household. At an age when most young people are entering their senior year in high school, preparing for college, and thinking about their date for the senior prom, these young people are facing rent payments, evening jobs, utility bills, and how to afford food, clothes and other basic necessities.

And while many communities have worked hard to create support systems that assist individuals who suffer from substance abuse, mental illness and other problems related to homelessness, young people who are emancipated from foster care who become

homeless lack the support networks that other people can rely upon in times of crisis. There simply have been no safety nets for the nearly 20,000 young people who leave foster care each year at age 18.

Mrs. Clinton's announcement today will help change that by ensuring that though the young people emerging from the foster care system may be on their own, they will not be alone.

I am proud to be a part of an Administration that has made such significant progress in the fight against homelessness. We learned early on that getting people off the streets meant more than just providing a roof over their heads. We know that the key to transitioning successfully out of homelessness is to provide what is known as a continuum of care -- a strategy that provides not just transitional and permanent housing, but also job training, child care, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services.

This Administration has significantly increased funding for homeless assistance -- and President Clinton has called for a total of more than \$1 billion in the Fiscal Year 2000 budget -- that will put this strategy to work in communities across our nation to help break the

cycle of homelessness.

And most importantly, breaking that cycle means addressing homelessness before it happens. Which is what initiatives such as these are designed to do. Most homeless adults will tell you that they became homeless because of people and systems that failed them as children. Let's make a commitment today to build on our progress and create strong safety nets that ensure that no child falls through the cracks.

And now it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you John Gutierrez. John was one of the first emancipated foster youth to live in the Bridges to Independent transitional housing program. Over the past year and a half, John has been attending Santa Monica City College where he is majoring in Art. He also holds two part-time jobs: one on Saturdays doing administrative work at a law firm and the other as a teacher's assistant at a local middle school. Please welcome John to tell us his story.

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DATE: 1/22/99

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION
HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION
ROOM 413 H HUMPHREY BUILDING

FROM:

TO : Marty Hoffman -456-6468 [XX] MARY M. BOURDETTE
Nicole Rabner -456-2878 Deputy Asst. Sec.

OFFICE : WH

ROOM NO :

PHONE NO :

FAX NO :

TOTAL PAGES
INCLUDING COVER): 2

REMARKS: Here's a hill list for the Independent Living/Foster Care event. I didn't mark A or B since its not that large, but let me know if you want me to cut it down at all.

Independent Living/Foster Care Event

Senators

Roth
Moynihan
Rockefeller
Chafee
Grassley

Jeffords
Kennedy
Dodd
Gregg
DeWine

Specter
Harkin
Landrieu
Feinstein
Craig
Biden
Hatch

Representatives

Archer
Rangel
Nancy Johnson
Cardin
Camp
Matsui

Goodling
Clay
Castle
Kildee

Bliley
Dingell
Brown
Bilirakis
Waxman

Obey
Porter
Morella
Tauscher
DeLauro
Hoyer
G. Miller
Carolyn Maloney

Staff

Alex Vachon/Jennifer Baxindale
Doug Steiger/Kristen Testa
Barbara Pryor
Laurie Rubiner
Sarah Gesiriech

Kimberly Barnes O'Connor
Stephanie Robinson
Susanne Day/Jim Fenton
Stephanie Monroe
Karla Carpenter

Bev Schroeder/Ellen Murray
Jason Mathews
Glenda Booth

Sheryl Walters
Sharon Prost

Staff

Ron Haskins
Nick Gwyn
Cassie Bevan
Nick Gwyn
Foster Behrends
Debbie Banks

Vic Klatt/Lynn Selmser
Gail Weiss/Cheryl Johnson
Booth Jamison
Callie Coffman

Tom Giles
Bridgett Taylor
Ellie Dahoney
Patty DeLoatche
Karen Nelson

Mark Mioduski

Charles Barone

1770

21 Admin

10 kids

MOC / IGA.

+ Josephine
+ John Heffer
+ Stephanie
+ Debbie King