



## 2021 Annual Report

THRU Project celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2021! Over 750 foster youth have been served by volunteer mentors who provide support, guidance, and advocacy. It remains our purpose to bridge the gap between foster care and adulthood. Our programs serve the most vulnerable foster youth: those who are at least 14 years old and most at-risk for leaving the system without permanency, and young adults who have already emancipated and face heartbreaking odds.

THRU Project donors made the following activities and outcomes possible:

### Mentorship

**276** youth were matched with trained mentors and **71** new mentors completed training.

### Life Skills Classes

- **Career Fair** (July) – Youth met with employers and learned how to find and keep a job.
- **Trunk or Treat Resource Fair** (October) – Several local nonprofits decorated their vehicles and handed out resources and goodies to youth, their friends, and families.
- **Holiday Event** (December) – Healthy Futures of Texas spoke about building healthy relationships and establishing boundaries.

### Fostering Connections

**39** smart phones with fully paid monthly plans were provided to youth, ensuring they can stay connected with their mentor, teachers, friends, caseworker, and relatives.

### Pass to Success

**43** VIA bus passes were provided free of charge to youth in need of transportation.

### Housing

**22** youth received apartments through our housing programs, which cover the cost of furniture, rent and ongoing case management. In turn, these youth work towards their college degrees, find stable employment, and invest as much as \$10,000 in savings each year!

## 2021 Youth Outcomes

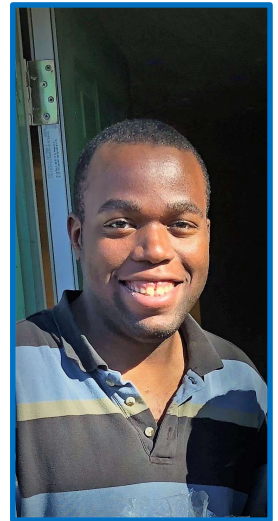
- **82%** of youth live in stable, safe housing
- **73%** of youth are employed
- **32%** of youth are in college or have graduated college
- **90%** of youth are on track to graduate high school or have graduated high school

## Testimonials

“THRU Project gave me a hand when I needed it. Instead of being homeless and scared, I had a roof over my head. I was able to find a career and start saving money.” – *Robyn*

“THRU Project has given me a mentor that I trust, the skills to achieve a stable income, and a safe place to lay my head.” – *Jacob*

“What THRU Project has done is help me have mercy on myself. It’s helping me with my self-confidence.” – *Israel*



## Highlights

- We received our **largest gift to date**, a \$200,000 grant from **Kym’s Angels Foundation**, which helped provide secure housing for 20 youth in 2021.
- The **Betting on Success** gala raised over \$350,000 for THRU Project’s programs.
- **THRU to Success**, our inaugural fashion show fundraiser, included a city-wide clothing drive and featured several of our youth who enjoyed the red-carpet treatment.
- The **Texas Foster Youth Health Initiative** selected THRU Project to lead the state’s south Texas region in providing interventions designed to help youth in foster care feel connected, safe, and empowered to make decisions about their health and relationships.
- A new and **improved website** now makes it easy for youth to access information about our programs and other community resources, while volunteers can quickly discover information about becoming a mentor and submit an online application.
- Our founder, **Elaine Andries Hartle**, stepped down as CEO in September. We welcomed Courtney Lavery to our team, who has two decades of experience working in the nonprofit sector. Elaine is looking forward to spending more time at her home in Costa Rica and we wish her the best!

**THANK YOU for fostering hope after foster care!**

**[www.thruproject.org](http://www.thruproject.org)**