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Local Non-Profit Benefiting Youth In and Aging Out of the Foster Care System Holds Informational Panel; Luncheon In Recognition of Foster Care Awareness Month

THRU Project Empowers and Uplifts Youth To Overcome The Challenges Of Growing Up In The Foster Care System By Providing Guidance, Support And Advocacy In Order To Prepare Them For Life After Foster Care.

San Antonio, Texas- May 9, 2023

THRU Project will hold their inaugural Spring into Action Fundraising Luncheon on May 16, 2023, at the Estancia Del Norte hotel. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and the program begins at 12:00 PM. A full, plated lunch will be served for attendees as they learn about the foster care system from those with lived experience in that system. Panelists are comprised of youth served by THRU Project and their adult mentors.

Volunteer mentors advise and guide their mentees as they approach 18 years of age at which point these youth are considered to have “aged out” of the foster care system. THRU Project supplies these young people with rent-free housing, life skills classes, free bus passes and cell phones and direct case management support as they pursue college education or vocational trades. Every THRU Project client is matched with a trained mentor.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge families and professionals who help children and youth in foster care. The Spring into Action Fundraising Luncheon provides a safe space for those with lived experience in the foster care system to share their stories and answer questions for those who would like to learn more.

According to THRU Project CEO, Courtney Laverty, “Preparing to age out of foster care is a critical time of transition. Too many youth and young adults leave foster care without anyone to support or guide them. Youth are in foster care through no fault of their own, and it’s heartbreaking that half will become homeless within two years of aging out. In our experience, these youth are resilient, strong, and full of hope for a brighter future. They just need support, guidance, and encouragement to navigate these formative years.”

Representatives from UTSA, Valero Energy, CGI Federal, Highland Commercial Properties, and iCope2Hope will be in attendance as sponsors of this inaugural event. Leaders from Workforce Solutions Alamo, BCFES, Pearls Court, CASA, and For Her will be at the event. Other noteworthy attendees include Judge Christine Hortick and Councilwoman Melissa Cabello Havrda. Members of the press are invited to attend.

About THRU Project

THRU Project was founded in 2011 by former foster mother, Elaine Andries Hartle and San Antonio entrepreneur and former foster youth, Steve O’Donnell. The mission of THRU Project is to help foster youth overcome the challenges of growing up in the foster care system by providing guidance, support, and advocacy to prepare them for life after exiting the system. THRU Project provides foster youth, ages 14 and up, with a volunteer mentor, free bus passes & cell phones, crucial life skills training, affordable & stable housing, and employment assistance through its partnerships with area business owners.

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If you would like more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact
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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER FOSTER CARE?

Housing Facts

LOCAL

20% of THRU Project mentees are in unstable housing conditions (couch surfing, living with a friend, un-sheltered)

In South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, SARAH's 2022 PIT Count they found:

- 59 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness had been placed in foster care.
- 44% of them reported not having a stable place to live upon exit.

NATIONAL

An estimated 20% of young adults who are in care become homeless the moment they're emancipated from the foster system at the age of 18 and 40-50% will be homeless within 18 months of emancipation.

Nationwide, 50% of the homeless population spent time in foster care.