



Foster Care Awareness Month Has Local Nonprofit Springing Into Action

THRU Project Empowers Youth With A History Of Foster Care To Build Independent, Successful Futures.

San Antonio, Texas- April 29, 2024

THRU Project will hold their second annual Spring into Action Fundraising Luncheon on May 9, 2024, at the Red Oak Ball Room of the Norris Conference Center. Doors open at 11:00 AM, and the program begins at 11:30 AM. A full, plated lunch will be served for attendees as they hear from keynote speaker, Texas State Representative Josey Garcia serving District 124, as she speaks to her own lived experience growing up in the foster care system. Her unique perspective informs the litigation she proposes during regular legislative session.

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 casts a spotlight on the lived experience of the young adults THRU Project serves as they transition out of foster care and into adulthood. Currently, these newly minted adults do not have enough resources or an adequate support network as they exit care.

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 Texas A&M University San Antonio, Alamo Colleges, UTSA, Valero Energy, Monterrey Iron & Metal, and SJRC | Belong are expected to be in attendance. Other noteworthy attendees include Judge Rosie Alvarado of the 438th Civil District Court, Judge Mary Lou Alvarez of the 45th Civil District Court, and Judge Nicole Garza of the 37th Civil District Court. Members of the press are invited to attend.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Kristin L. Beno, 731-514-6856 or kristin@thruproject.org.

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About National Foster Care Awareness Month

National Foster Care Month is dedicated to recognizing the 463,000 children and youth in foster care across America, as well as the efforts of family members, foster parents, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, and policymakers who support them in finding lasting homes and relationships.



For more information:
<https://bit.ly/4405L6i>

About the Spring Into Action Luncheon | May 9, 2024

As part of our efforts to highlight National Foster Care Awareness Month, THRU Project invites our community to Spring into Action on behalf of local youth with lived experience in foster care. Keynote speaker, Texas State Representative Josey Garcia, will speak to her lived experience in the foster care system and her efforts to improve services for youth in this population.



For more information:
<https://bit.ly/3W1cSK0>

About THRU Project

THRU Project envisions a world where everyone with lived experience in foster care has the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential. Since starting as a grassroots organization in 2011 and becoming a 501(c)3 nonprofit in 2013, THRU Project aims to bridge the gap between foster care and adulthood. We focus on youth with lived experience in foster care who are at least 14 years old as well as young adults ages 18-25 who have exited foster care. THRU Project's services empower our participants to change the trajectory of their lives. Each of our programs (*Mentorship, Housing, Life Skills Classes, Mental Wellness Support, Free Cell Phones and Bus Passes*) was created in direct response to hearing from our participants about the challenges they face.

In 2023, THRU Project served nearly 300 unduplicated young people through our programs. With the support, tools and resources THRU Project provides, our participants are empowered to build independent successful futures. Learn more at [THRUProject.org](https://thruproject.org)

About Heart Gallery of South Central Texas

As the newest addition to THRU Project's initiatives, The Heart Gallery of South Central Texas redefines the narrative of youth in foster care with innovative storytelling to restore the dignity of young people affected by trauma and to catalyze the development of loving families formed through adoption. By bolstering the pathway to permanency, the collaborative framework of Heart Gallery empowers youth to build independent, successful futures.

Now working upstream, THRU Project has implemented The Heart Gallery of South Central Texas to complete our continuum of care; working from within the foster care system to find permanent, loving homes for children so they are never counted among the estimated 20% of youth exiting foster care who become homeless the day they turn 18. By bolstering the pathway to permanency, the collaborative framework of Heart Gallery empowers youth to build independent, successful futures. Learn more at heartgallerysctx.org