

Annual Report 2012



Letter from the Executive Director

Every day Foster Care to Success (FC2S) has the honor of working with young people across the country who have hopes, dreams and goals that are much bigger and bolder than I had at their age. Being in foster care doesn't define them; they are determined to pursue careers, raise families, and help change their communities and the world for the better.

The 3,800 students in our program are navigating their transition from high school to college, from foster care to independence, and from the campus to the workforce. They are emerging into adulthood in turbulent times, and at FC2S we feel a sense of urgency to help them make the best decisions they can and find the path that is right for them.

Each student is on a journey, whether they want to be a teacher, a plumber, a social worker or an airplane mechanic, and we need to help them succeed. FC2S is committed to helping them, and to being a catalyst enabling others to be part of their journey. Our volunteer coaches, donors and foundations invest time and money because they believe each student is important and that our programs, including educational grants, scholarships, coaching and care packages, truly make a difference.

Across the country, every state, hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals are working on behalf of foster youth. We are proud to be one of them - the nation's oldest, largest and most comprehensive organization with the sole mission of helping foster youth transition to successful adulthood through education.

Please take this opportunity to learn more about FC2S and meet some of our students as we celebrate our accomplishments from 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eileen McCaffrey".

Eileen McCaffrey
Executive Director

www.FC2Success.org
www.Facebook.com/fostercaretosuccess
www.Twitter.com/fc2success

A Day in the Life

*I'm so happy to hear from you.
What classes are you taking this semester?
When are you planning to meet with your advisor?
Who looks after your son while you are in class?
Where are you staying when the dorms close for
winter break?
Let's plan to talk again soon – I'm going to call
you next week.*

These are just a few of the conversations you're likely to overhear on any given day at Foster Care to Success. Our staff wear many "hats" as they interact with students, serving as sounding boards to help them make good choices, as trusted advisors who can help them think about how they're going to achieve their educational goals, and most of all, as caring adults who will listen and offer unconditional support.

Each year, FC2S programs serve thousands of students who are working towards a credential or degree. Because of their involvement with the foster care system, they are likely to face additional challenges on their path to adulthood. FC2S staff gets to know our students and understands both their strengths and needs. Our staff and volunteers are trained to assist them with navigating obstacles they are likely to encounter and to provide the strategic supports and guidance needed by young people to succeed in the education or training program of their choice. Our communication with students maximizes technology and uses social media outlets so that we are able to offer individualized support. The regular and ongoing contact often makes the difference between student failure and continued progress towards academic and personal goals.



Foster Care to Success Programs:

Education Training Vouchers (ETV):

The Education and Training Voucher Program is a federally funded program for foster youth and certain adoptees, that provides needed funding and support so they can attend college or a training program.

In 2012, FC2S partnered with nine states to administer over \$11 million in federal ETV funding and provide support services to 3,800 students.

Alabama Department of Human Resources
Arizona DES, Division of Children, Youth and Families
Arkansas Department of Human Services
Colorado Department of Human Resources
Maryland Department of Human Resources
Missouri Department of Social Services
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
North Carolina Division of Social Services
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Private Scholarships:

Since 1991, FC2S has awarded \$13 million in scholarships to FC2S students. In 2012, 441 students received scholarships totaling \$1.5 million. Our scholarships are funded through donations from individuals, foundations and corporations; please see the last page of this document for a partial listing of Bronze, Silver and Gold level donors. We are grateful to Casey Family Programs for our partnership on behalf of foster youth since 2000.

Reach USA - Student Support Programs:

FC2S administers Reach USA Programs for the states of North Carolina and Missouri. These comprehensive support programs provide youth who have been in foster care with academic, career and personal support and grants to attend state colleges and obtain the skills needed to contribute to the state's economy as educated workers. Reach USA programs are state-funded grants for post-secondary education specifically for teens in and adopted from foster care.

- **NC Reach:** In 2012, 412 foster youth and adoptees in public community colleges and state universities received nearly \$1,978,412 from the NC Reach Program.
- **Missouri Reach:** In 2012, 34 foster youth and adoptees in public community colleges and state universities received \$236,568 from the MO Reach Program.



InternAmerica:

In 2012, 19 students came to Washington, DC, as part of InternAmerica, a competitive program that places young people in internships in corporate offices, non- governmental agencies and Congressional offices on Capitol Hill each summer. While in Washington, students participated in a series of workshops to facilitate their transition from student to young professional.

Additionally, through outreach to our ETV students and scholarship recipients, FC2S provided resources and information to more than 2,000 young people nationwide to help them find internship opportunities in their local communities.

Care Packages:

Annually, FC2S sends thousands of care packages filled with necessities and small gifts to college students across the country. This program is underwritten by corporate donors, foundations and volunteers, who provide the contents, fill the boxes at local volunteer events, and write cards to students. Each February, as part of this program, FC2S sends every eligible student a handcrafted red woolen scarf to provide tangible evidence of the warmth and caring of the wider community. These scarves are handmade by the hundreds of volunteers who participate in the *Red Scarf Project*.

In 2012, FC2S hosted three care package events and sent more than 7,500 packages to our students.

Mentoring and Support:

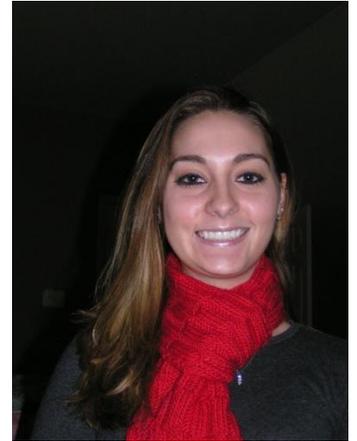
FC2S has been mentoring young people since 1981. Our Academic Success Program engages a cadre of trained volunteers to provide students with the encouragement and guidance they need to be successful. Academic Success coaches are matched with students and take an interest in their lives to help them make the most of the educational opportunities that are available to them.

2012 Accomplishments:

- Administered funding and provided support to 3,500 students enrolled in Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program through monthly phone calls, weekly emails and text messages, as well as on Facebook and Twitter;
- Offered funding and intensive coaching to 441 students enrolled in the Scholarship Program;
- Sent more than 7,500 care packages to the students served by our programs;
- Launched an online campaign, including a new website and social media presence, to raise awareness about FC2S and issues surrounding foster youth in post-secondary education;
- Hosted students in Washington, DC for our InternAmerica Program in which 19 students had summer internships in Congressional offices and at organizations, such as the American Bar Association and the Small Business Administration.

In the Words of our Students:

With your support, I was able to achieve my dream of studying abroad in France. As a Stanford Government Environmental Policy fellow, I interned with BIO Intelligence Service (BIO), an environmental consultancy in Paris. At BIO, I worked on projects such as waste prevention, decoupling policies, and publication design for EU and UK public institutions. I am extremely appreciative of all of the support I have received from Foster Care to Success and Stanford University, and I encourage foster youth to travel abroad. ~ B.K., Stanford University



I decided that I wanted to pursue stenography as a career but I didn't really have any idea what I was getting into when I started. The training involved isn't easy – only 4% of people who start these programs actually end up finishing. It was so much work and I had to give up just about everything outside of school just to stay on top of my assignments. My grades were not that good and there were days when I was so discouraged. But no matter how bad things got, I knew that I could always count on my ETV coordinator. Talking with him reminded me why I was so determined to finish this program. ~ R.L., University of North Carolina, Greensboro

I was a Foster Care to Success student from August 2008 to June 2012.

A year ago, I accepted a job as a behavior interventionist for a counseling service, where I work in a school setting with autistic children and children with emotional/behavioral disturbances.

During lunch in the school's faculty room, I got to know a group of women who call themselves "The Lunch Ladies." One day, the topic of college came up, and I mentioned that I had been in foster care in New York State for five years. One of the Lunch Ladies mentioned that she takes part in a special volunteer project in which she knits red scarves to send to foster care youth in college. I could hardly believe it – I had received several of these scarves while I was in college at St. Bonaventure!

I became a little emotional as I shared my story. For all I knew, this coworker could have been the very woman who knitted one of cherished red scarves that ended up around my neck! Receiving these care packages was often the highlight of my semester. I fumbled an awkward thanks to this woman and wished that I had the words to convey how much these scarves meant to me.

I hope that my co-worker as well as your many FC2S volunteers understand how deeply grateful I am for their thoughtfulness and compassion. Let my story be a reminder to you about how important your work is and that even the smallest act of kindness – like knitting a scarf for a stranger – can make all the difference. ~P.P., St. Bonaventure University

Let's just say that getting to this point in my life hasn't been easy. I transferred to college after a couple of semesters in community college. For lots of different reasons, I didn't do well. In fact, I had such an awful semester that I was academically dismissed. That was bad but what made things even worse was that I had to move out of my dorm room. I went from not even thinking about my housing to being homeless. I had no idea what to do and felt like my world was falling apart. Fortunately, I called my ETV Coordinator and told her what had happened. She helped me get through the immediate crisis of losing my housing and then we worked on a plan to get me back into school. ~ S.N., SUNY Brockport



I've had to work harder than I ever have before but it's been worth it. I recently turned 23 and am no longer eligible for ETV. But I'm ok – I just had my best semester ever and I'm proud to say I got my associate's degree in May. I can honestly say that I don't know where I'd be if Foster Care to Success hadn't been there to help me.
~R.B., Merritt College

In the Words of our Staff:

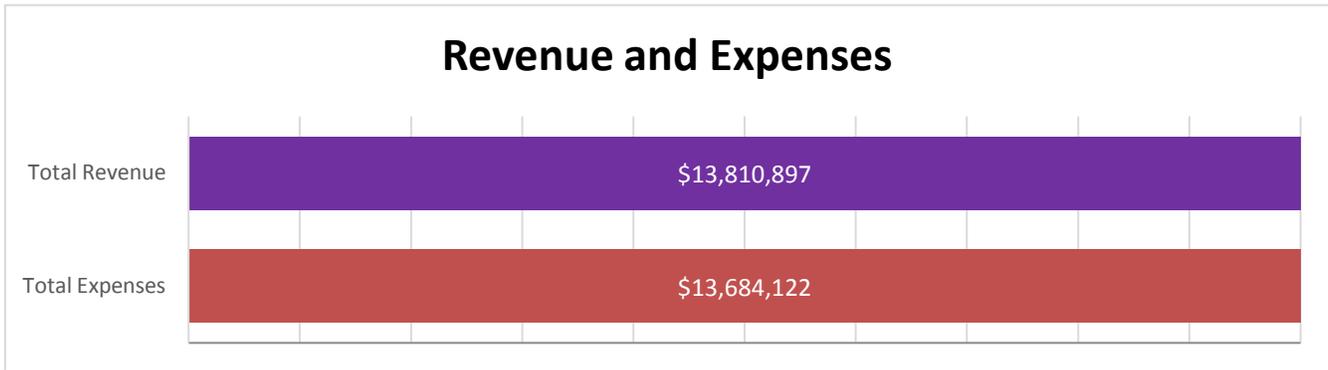
When people ask me what I do for a living, the “short answer” is that I work with foster youth who are in college. But there's actually so much more to what I do. As an ETV Coordinator, I have the opportunity to get to know our students and help them succeed in school. Because each of our students is unique, developing relationships with them is critical to being able to do my job well. By understanding their strengths and challenges, I'm better equipped to help them get what they need. And while we focus on education, my role is to support them with making decisions that will positively affect their futures. And the best part is that I know this program makes a real difference! I can't think of anywhere I'd rather be.

In the Words of our Corporate Partners:

*Foster kids going off to college are excited but also alone... They lack the family structure and support that most of us have and take for granted. Working with FC2S, **ExxonMobil** gets an opportunity to let these students know that someone cares, that someone wants them to succeed... It's sending a warm hug by mail that goes both ways! ~Lys Stalker, ExxonMobil*

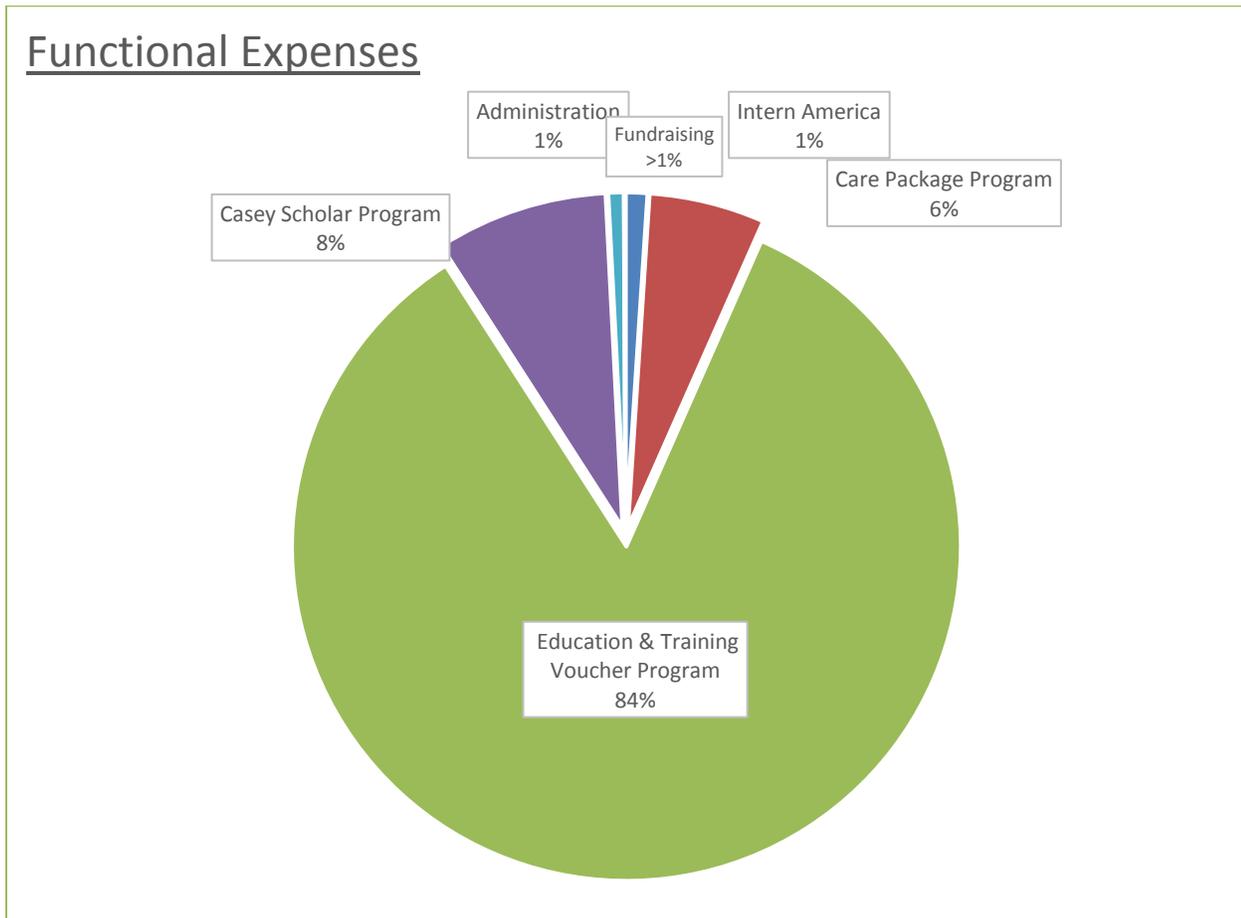
***Alliant Credit Union and the Alliant Credit Union Foundation** have been proud to support Foster Care to Success (FCS), and their important work on behalf of former foster children. FC2S has a long and impressive record of helping to transition youth from foster care to productive, fulfilling adulthood, consistent with Alliant's commitment to promoting economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.*
~David Mooney, President/CEO, Alliant Credit Union

Audited Financial Information:



Revenue	
Contributions and Grants	\$2,526,498
Program Service Revenue	\$11,112,218
Investment Income	\$149,681
Other Revenue	\$22,500
Total	\$13,810,897

Expenses	
Direct Services	\$13,572,271
Management	\$100,664
Fundraising	\$11,187
Total	\$13,684,122



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There are over 3,000 donors at this level

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