



Fostering Advocates Arizona (FAAZ) is a community wide initiative backed by the voices of young people who have experienced foster care as critical advisors for change. It is our goal to ensure all young people who have experienced foster care have the information, resources and support they need to successfully transition into adulthood.



This year our youth advocates took direct action to influence policy and practice on big issues impacting young adults who have experienced foster care. They led insightful and engaging discussions on topics including; **creating permanent connections with caring adults, providing youth with age-appropriate enrichment activities and experiences, growing access to post-secondary education and increasing health care enrollment for youth formerly in foster care.**

YOUTH *Engagement*

The Young Adult Leadership Board shared experiences and needs at community convenings, workshops, and panel discussions on topics impacting youth in foster care.



The Young Adult Leadership Board increased our fan base with the Youth.Speak.Change Blog. The youth-authored monthly blog posts highlighted their experiences and important tips on sibling connections, youth-voice in case planning, accessing health care, educational resources and money management.



OPPORTUNITY PASSPORT



Implemented Opportunity Passport™ financial literacy and match-savings program and delivered

**540 PARTICIPANT
TRAINING
HOURS**

on assets, money management and credit building.



Eighteen Opportunity Passport™ participants saved \$27,859 and were matched for a total of \$55,718 to purchase life-changing assets.

TOTAL: \$55,718

ASSETS PURCHASED



37% Vehicle



17% Housing



17% Investments



12% Credit Repair



17% Education & Training



LEGISLATION, POLICY and Community Action



Young Adult Leadership Board members gave testimony on passage of HB 2022, a technical correction to the Foster Care Tuition Waiver Bill allowing access to the waiver up to age 23 regardless of when it was first awarded. This allows more youth to benefit from the tuition waiver as they transition from a public community college to a state university.

391%

ENROLLMENT INCREASE

in Arizona Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI)

Through collaboration with multiple state agencies, FAAZ effectively advocated to streamline health care enrollment and outreach to young adults who have aged out of foster care. The Initiative promoted, marketed and educated service providers, young adults, and community allies about the YATI program. From September 2013 to December 2015, there has been a 391% increase in the number of young people enrolled (from 333 to 1,635 enrolled members).

DIGITAL Engagement



Like



Comment

10 26

Broadened community reach through the FAAZ website launch, a resource hub and hotspot providing information and support for young people who have experienced foster care.

**Launched
FAAZ
website**



Established presence and grew social media followers!

704

LIKES



241

FOLLOWERS



82

FOLLOWERS



**FOSTERING
ADVOCATES
ARIZONA**
Youth. Speak. Change.

**For more information or to get involved,
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