

THE NORTHERN OLDER YOUTH GAZETTE

DON'T LET A COLLEGE DREAM TURN INTO A NIGHTMARE!



5 steps you can do to ensure College entry success.

1. Talk to your youth about going to college. Be sure to let teachers, guidance counselors, Chafee providers and college advisors know the youth's plans for college. Work together.
2. If your youth changes school; ensure that everyone new knows about the college plan.
3. Teach them about resources available.
4. Do an online search for colleges with your youth.
5. Take your youth to visit campuses. Can't transport? Ask a foster parent, natural parent, relatives, or Chafee providers to help.

7 Steps a Youth can do to ensure College entry success

1. Find resources, scholarships & grants
2. Arrange campus visits with the admission office and arrange transportation.
3. Make an appointment with the guidance counselor or college advisor and visit regularly.
4. Take the ACT {Apply for waivers}
5. Complete FASA! {Earlier the better}
6. Apply for ETV!
7. Celebrate your success!



What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Scholarship Opportunity!

For National Society Daughters of the American Revolution scholarships including American Indian visit

http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout_scholar.cfm

Did You Know

ACT Fee waivers are available to our youth! Apply with the local high school counselor.

Application Fee waivers are available too & can be used for up to six schools. Apply with the local high school counselor. High schools only get a limited supply so let your youth know about this resource today:

Tip: *If all the application fee waivers are gone the high school counselor can write a letter to the school asking them to waive the fee. Most colleges will. You just have to ask!*

Scholarship Opportunity! www.mfcaa.org, This is an amazing opportunity for students who are or who have ever been in foster care in MO.

Free Online ACT & SAT Resources:

www.learningexpressllc.com This website has online sessions, & study books in E-form. It's free!

<http://www.actstudent.org> This is the actual ACT website which offers free practice questions, sample essay and tips.

www.number2.com Is an online free course. It has quizzes like word of the day.

www.collegeboard.com Has prep questions/essays. It also has a cool college plan guide which is free.

7 Tips on Choosing the Best Vocational School

Steadman Issenburg

1. Comparison shop for schools in your particular career.
2. Find out their reputation.
3. Ask Questions. How successful has their educational training been in the past.
4. Talk to former graduates.
5. Watch out if a school seems to be pressuring you.
6. Read all contracts.
7. Take your time to decide which school will work best for you.

BGTM News....

BGTM Chafee youth are soaring!! At last count, at least 10 of our clients are now college students. Enrolled at Missouri West in St. Joseph, State Fair College in Sedalia, University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri Valley College in Marshall, and Moberly Area Community College, these young people appear to be determined to pursue their dreams and goals of obtaining a higher education and improving their abilities to live as self-sufficient young adults. BGTM couldn't be happier for them, or prouder!

Chafee Tip: Let your Chafee provider know if your youth is moving to a new home or has moved. This could directly affect services! Questions? Call your OYTS.

To assist some of these young people, BGTM has been able to purchase household items for apartments and dorm rooms, such as bed and bath linens, kitchen linens, dishes, pots, pans and utensils. It is a gratifying experience for BGTM staff to have the opportunity to provide guidance, assistance and financial support, all through the Chafee program, for these hard-working and dedicated young adults. Boys & Girls Town of Missouri has begun a 10-week series of Independent Living Skills classes in St. Joseph for our Chafee youth. This one community has provided BGTM with more than 15 referrals. Most of these youth have identified needs and goals related to money management, budgeting, job-readiness and employment. These areas will be the focus of the curriculum for this series. Classes will be held at the 5th Circuit CASA & Victim Services offices at 802 Monroe. The classes, which started the last week of September, are being

taught by BGTM's Independent Living Youth Advocate. They are held once a week from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. BGTM is also planning to initiate a series of ILS classes in Marshall, another community that has provided at least 15 or more referrals.

Tool Time: EXit Packet

Prior to a youth being released from care on or after his/her 18th birthday, the Children's Service Worker (CSW) should have a discussion with the youth informing them of services available when they do exit custody. The Exit Packet, which was provided in Memo **CD07-34**, should be provided to those youth currently in care as they exit the foster care system. The exit packet includes information on the Education Training Voucher, Mo Health Net, & Chafee aftercare program.

<http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2007/cd0734.pdf>

TODAY'S LEADERS

Boys & Girls Town of Missouri is happy to announce that Anthony of Saline County was recently elected to serve on the State Youth Advisory Board. Anthony was very enthusiastic about participating in the SYAB meeting, which was held in Jefferson City in July. Election to the Board highlighted the event. Anthony said that he was "very honored" even to be nominated to the Board, and that he has many ideas that he believes will help others. Congratulations, Anthony!

"The task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for the greatness is there already." John Buchan

One of BGTM's Chafee youth, Tiffany, is one of two Youth appointed by Governor Blunt to a "Blue Ribbon Task Force Panel," formed to help meet the critical needs of young Missourians leaving foster care. In a press release of 08/12/08 Governor Blunt was quoted as stating that he is "... calling on this task force to identify additional opportunities to bridge gaps in housing, education, and employment that foster care children often face. . ." as they approach adulthood. BGTM is proud to have one of our Chafee youth, along with BGTM President, Vince Hillyer, serving on this very important panel.