HOW MIGHT WE...

PROVIDE FOSTER PARENTS AND MENTORS OF 15-21 YEAR OLD FOSTER YOUTH WITH INFORMATION AND RESOURCES THAT WILL ASSIST THEM IN GUIDING THE YOUTH TO A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION INTO PRODUCTIVE AND SELF-ACTUALIZING INDEPENDENCE

WHY?

ONLY 5% OF FOSTER YOUTH GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE VS 20% OF THEIR PEERS

[1] OF SURVEYED FOSTER PARENTS FEEL COMPLETELY PREPARED TO START PARENTING

[2] OF SURVEYED CURRENT PARENTS FEEL PERFECTLY EQUIPPED TO BEST ASSIST THEIR CHILD

NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE EVERY YEAR

THE LARGEST ISSUE WE PERCEIVED FOR FOSTER YOUTH WAS CONSISTENCY. FOSTER PARENTS ARE USUALLY THE MOST CONSISTENT FORM OF SUPPORT FOR THE YOUTH. OUR NEW SOLUTION BETTER PREPARES FOSTER PARENTS TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

OUR WEBSITE:

ANSWERS BIG QUESTIONS, CONNECTS FOSTER PARENTS TO LOCAL RESOURCES, AND BOOSTS FOSTER PARENT CONFIDENCE

SOLUTION

ESTABLISH STAKEHOLDER NETWORK

CONTACT AND MEET WITH OVER 15 DIFFERENT FOSTER PARENTS/ORGANIZATIONS

WORK ON MEETING EVEN MORE FOSTER PARENTS/ORGANIZATIONS

DEVELOP OUR CONNECTIONS TO FIND AN ORGANIZATION TO PARTNER WITH THAT WOULD WANT TO USE OUR WEBSITE

CREATE A NETWORK OF FOSTER PARENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OUR WEBSITE AND WOULD WANT TO MAKE CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

HAVE OUR WEBSITE SET UP AND HOSTED ONLINE

DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL CONTENT (COLLEGES, TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, AND CAREER PATHWAYS)

ADD PICTURES AND INFOGRAPHICS TO MAKE THE WEBSITE MORE VISUALLY APPEALING

DEVELOP INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL SITUATIONS, EMOTIONAL NEEDS, AND PERSONAL WELLNESS

WORK ON SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION

MEASURE OF SUCCESS:

SHORT-TERM: BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH 5 ORGANIZATIONS/PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE FOSTER CARE EXPERTISE

LONG-TERM: FORM AN OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ORGANIZATION WHO WANTS TO USE OUR WEBSITE

MEASURE OF SUCCESS:

SHORT-TERM: HAVE AN AESTHETICALLY APPEALING WEBSITE AVAILABLE ONLINE WITH NO ERRORS AND THE EDUCATION SECTION COMPLETED

LONG-TERM: HAVE ALL FOUR MAIN SECTIONS (SOCIAL SITUATIONS, EMOTIONAL NEEDS, EDUCATION, AND PERSONAL WELLNESS) COMPLETED

BETA TESTING AND REVISIONS

ATTEND A DEKALB FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING AND SURVEY THOSE FOSTER PARENTS

MEET WITH OTHER FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS TO SURVEY A GREATER NUMBER OF FOSTER PARENTS

SPEAK TO VARIOUS FOSTER PARENTS/ORGANIZATIONS TO GET TIPS FOR WEBSITE CONTENT AND LAYOUT

MAKE CHANGES TO WEBSITE CONTENT TO REFLECT SUGGESTIONS

MEASURE OF SUCCESS:

SHORT-TERM: SURVEYS AND INTERVIEWS WITH FOSTER PARENTS, MENTORS, PROFESSIONALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR WEBSITE

LONG-TERM: FOSTER PARENT CONFIDENCE, EXPECTATIONS VS. REALITY, FOSTER YOUTH CAREER PREPAREDNESS/OUTCOMES

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS

69% HAD AN UNREASONABLE AMOUNT OF UNANSWERED FOSTER CARE RELATED QUESTIONS

83% BELIEVE THAT OUR WEBSITE WILL BE FAIRLY OR VERY USEFUL

57% SAID THEY WOULD USE OUR WEBSITE ONCE A WEEK

FEEDBACK FROM PROFESSIONALS

"I'M LOVING THIS WEBSITE! IT'S THE FIRST ONE THAT ACTUALLY HAS A SECTION ON ED AND ADVICE..."- DEBRA WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, WINHOSPE ANGEL FOOD KITCHEN

"IF YOU (WEBSITE) COULD BE A PLACE FOR PARENTS TO GO, THAT WOULD BE AWESOME" - BETH TEMPLETON, CO-FOUNDER OF HOPE AT HOME  "I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW USEFUL THIS WILL BE! I BELIEVE STRONGLY IN WHAT YOU AND YOUR GROUP ARE WORKING TOWARDS"- LARA LYNN STURGEON - ASST. DIRECTOR, WINHOSPE ANGEL FOOD KITCHEN

TEAM FOSTER: ASHLEY, MACY, MADDY, BEN, WITH HELP FROM ALEX PENNINGTON

FUTURE GOALS

PARTNER WITH 2 FOSTER CARE ORGANIZATIONS

TOPICS TO ADD:

SHORT-TERM FOSTER PARENTING HEALTH CARE / DRIVER'S LICENSE DEALING WITH BIOLOGICAL PARENTS MANEUVERING COURT RELATIONSHIP WITH CASE TEAM