

Resources for Community Education



This workshop was essentially a “film” festival – we watched a number of videos for supervisors to use in training workers and in speaking with community groups, including:

- **Endless Dreams: Building Education Support for Youth in Foster Care**, Casey Family Programs 2006. This 18 minute video features a young woman in foster care and describes how foster care impacted her education. It also features several educators sharing their perspective.
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- **Seeds of Hope**, Elevate, a program of Children and Families of Iowa, www.elevate2inspire.com, 2007: System-involved youth share their experiences that they have had throughout their education. Advice is offered to teachers with how to handle foster/adoptive situations in the classroom. This video is entirely from a young person’s point of view.
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- **Insights**, Elevate, a program of Children and Families of Iowa, www.elevate2inspire.com: This video offers perspectives from legal advocate and the youth they represent with regards to the legal process involved in the child welfare system.

We also shared information about the youth group Elevate’s presentations for training in the Service Areas (see next page).

Training available from Elevate
www.elevate2inspire.com
Contact: Tammy Mahan
Children and Families of Iowa
(515) 288-1981 ext 702

The School of Foster Care

Presenters: Adults affiliated with the Elevate program (foster/adoptive parents, social workers and/or chapter facilitators who are alumni of care) and Elevate members

Well-meaning educators sometimes assign tasks that are awkward, difficult or impossible for foster and adopted youth to complete. This session, co-presented by current and former foster youth, explores some school related issues, why youth struggle with them and how to approach educators about making schools more sensitive to youth. Also included are alternative suggestions for traditional assignments.

The participants will leave more aware of the challenges youth face in school and why these issues arise. They will also understand why it is important that they advocate for youth in school and will leave with increased ability to work in cooperation with teachers and administrators to make classrooms more friendly to foster and adopted youth.

B-S.A.F.E.

B-Birth Relationships
S-Sibling Relationships
A-Adoptive Relationships
F-Foster Relationships
E-Evolving Relationships

Presenters: Adults affiliated with the Elevate program (foster/adoptive parents, social workers and/or chapter facilitators who are alumni of care) and Elevate members

This training is intended to help youth, adults, and professionals explore the importance of the birth family, siblings, and other connections for the foster/adopted youth. In our desire to provide youth with safety and security, foster/adoptive parents and child welfare professionals have sometimes isolated youth from their families of origin, resulting in unnecessary additional struggles for youth upon reaching adulthood.

This training will help foster/adoptive parents and professionals equip the youth to form their own realistic expectations for their relationships with birth family members, siblings, caregivers and future relationships by presenting youth with honest, age appropriate information.

Participants will learn the importance of encouraging youth to develop relationships with mentors, teachers, foster parents and other adults in the community to become their future support system.

Preparing for Court

Presenters: One or more highly esteemed legal professionals from Iowa; One or more Elevate chapter facilitators; and Elevate youth It is essential for youth's voices to be heard during legal proceedings --

to effectively accomplish this; they need to be well prepared. This interactive workshop, which is co-presented by young people will familiarize foster youth and foster parents with the court system, prepare them for court dates, and make them more confident when working with the legal system. They will learn appropriate etiquette as well as what is expected of them. Participants will learn how youth, social workers, judges, and lawyers can partner creatively. Foster parents will leave with an understanding that the system is there to protect them and the children they serve.

I'm More Than My File

Presenters: Adults affiliated with the Elevate program (foster/adoptive parents, social workers and/or chapter facilitators who are alumni of care) and Elevate members

This workshop is designed specifically to help young people discover their strengths and the power of their influence. However, they cannot fully utilize their strengths and influence on their own -- they need professionals who are willing to assist youth in focusing on their individuality, history, culture, and identity. The participants will learn how to motivate youth to be more involved and proactive in their destinies. Foster parents will learn that having positive working relationships with youth means looking beyond their file and getting to know them on a more personal level.

Connecting to Your Roots

Presenters: Adults affiliated with the Elevate program (foster parents, social workers and/or chapter facilitators who are alumni of care) and Elevate members

The foster care system is made up of a variety of people from diverse backgrounds and it is necessary to train foster parents and professionals about their child's culture to enhance the child's development and the parent-child relationships. This training will expand everyone's knowledge about the child's culture and give them information about resources and supports that will assist them in promoting their cultural competency.