

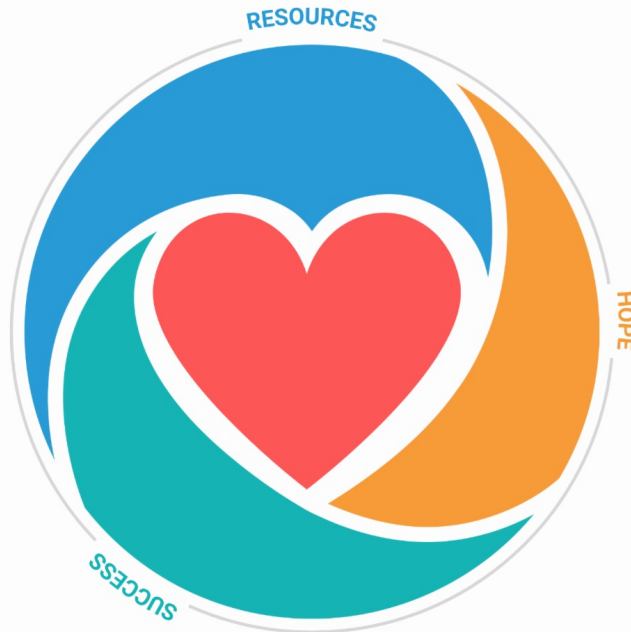


National Edition 16

# The Heart of iFoster is YOU

February Edition 2024

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As we stride into 2024, we want to reflect on the tremendous impact our community achieved last year to keep a pulse on what's to come. The resources in this edition of our newsletter will help keep you focused on getting and keeping a job and ways to save on the road to financial empowerment. Let's dive in and make 2024 a year of growth and success together!

## Resources for you

### FREE Career Planing Tool



Looking for a job that truly reflects who you are? Look no further than Career Cruising! This interactive tool is specifically designed to help you explore your career interests and create an educational roadmap to achieve your professional goals.

To get started, click the link below to complete your referral request and iFoster will set up your very own Career Cruising account. You can use your account for free for a year. Find your perfect fit and start your journey today!

[Start exploring careers today](#)

### Employment support—Every step of the way!



Are you interested in expanding your knowledge and skills to excel in the workforce, even if you're not currently seeking employment? We've got you covered! Our groundbreaking online curriculum, created by industry experts and tested by iFoster's Peer Navigators, is designed to help you uncover your true potential, boost your confidence, and become a valuable asset to any team!

Don't settle for just landing an interview—aim to secure the job and thrive in it! Let us guide you on your journey.

[Kick Start Your Employment with Us](#)

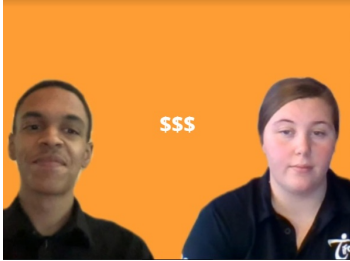
### iFoster is Hiring Over 200 Interns in 2023!



Our interns serve ten-month paid internships in our TAY AmeriCorps peer navigator program. This program is designed to develop interns professionally as they help their peers - other foster youths - obtain the resources they need to graduate high school, persist in college, get a job and become self-sufficient. If you live in CA, NV, OH, New York City or WA. If you are a current/former youth in foster care ages 18-26 and interested in helping your peers, apply below.

[Apply Here](#)

## Easy Money Management



Looking to increase your savings? The Wise Pockets' method is here to help you stash away more cash! Let our Peer Navigators, Avante and Dymond, be your mentors through this interactive budgeting game, specially designed to teach you the art of budgeting and boost your savings. Start maximizing your money with Wise Pockets today!

[Learn about Wise Pockets](#)

## Learn the Basics of Money Management with MoneySmart 101



If you've ever wondered where money comes from since it doesn't grow on trees, the answer is simple: it grows in a bank! It's time to start making your money and spending habits work in your favor. Introducing MoneySmart, a self-paced course developed by iFoster, which delves into the fundamentals of finance and provides strategies for making wise financial decisions. Take control of your finances and become MoneySmart today!

[Start Your MoneySmart Journey here](#)

## Ways to Save On Things You Love



If you're anything like us, finding ways to save money on essential items, clothing, supplies, and even leisure activities is always a priority. Luckily, iFoster Get Perks and Working Advantage make accessing these discounts easier than ever before. Both programs offer a wide range of discounts on hundreds of items, but they also have their own exclusive offers that set them apart from each other. Discover the savings opportunities that await you with both iFoster Get Perks and Working Advantage!

[Watch and Learn More](#)

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## Exciting News: Angels Nest Honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award



Congratulations to Arzo Yusuf, Executive Director of Angels Nest, for being awarded the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award for her outstanding community work. The award, presented by AmeriCorps CEO Michael D. Smith at a Roundtable event co-hosted with Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove and iFoster TAY AmeriCorps Members in Los Angeles, recognizes the remarkable impact of AmeriCorps members and alumni in California, especially in supporting foster youth and improving access to education.

Arzo Yusuf and Angels Nest have been duly recognized for their incredible work in the community, and here's the good news: iFoster is still seeking more host sites. If you're a foster youth program or agency and wish to provide internships to help connect clients to resources, learn from Angels Nest's example and become a host site today!

Angels Nest works to provide housing and support services to youth attending college or trade schools by partnering with educational institutions to ensure eligible students receive the necessary support to complete their degrees. Currently, Angels Nest collaborates with California State University, Dominguez Hills, and their

iFoster TAY AmeriCorps Interns help organizations like Angels Nest grow their capacity through a fully funded paid internship at no cost to the organization. So, if you are a program or agency serving foster youth and are interested in having interns help connect your clients to resources, answer the call of service like Angels Nest and [learn how you can become a host site](#) today!

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## The HEART of Our Impact is YOU!

iFoster had a year of remarkable growth and impact in 2023, thanks to the continued support of our partners and supporters. We were able to make a positive difference in the lives of more children, youth, caregivers, and front-line workers by facilitating more resource connections than ever before.

We continued to provide professional opportunities for hundreds of transition-age foster youth, who did an outstanding job ensuring their peers across the country received the resources they needed to succeed.

Our accomplishments also included significant expansions to our efforts, and we are excited to see what 2024 has in store for us.

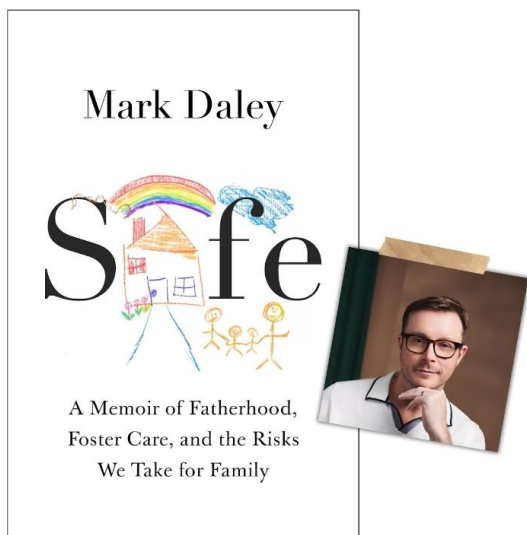
We truly appreciate your help and support in making this year so impactful, and we are confident that we still have the potential for even greater achievements with your continued support.



[See the impact](#)

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## Partner Spotlight: *SAFE: A Memoir of Fatherhood, Foster Care, and the Risks We Take for Family* by Mark Daley.



Introducing Mark Daley, a foster parent and founder of [The Foster Parent](#). In his new memoir, "Safe: A Memoir of Fatherhood, Foster Care, and the Risks We Take for Family," Daley shares his experiences and reflections on loving and letting go of the children in his care. Daley's story provides valuable insights into the challenges, uncertainties, and rewards of foster parenting while finding strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

[Listen to Mark discuss his book here on NPR](#)

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## Did You Know?



### Calling those with lived experience!

The federal Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC) is looking for individuals with lived experience to help inform their work. As a Lived Expert Consultant, you'll contribute to strategies, attend cool events, and even write for the quarterly newsletter!

You'll also work with state and community partners to improve policies and programs.

They are looking for people who have worked with kids, youth, and families in poverty. You'll have a flexible schedule, get paid, and receive training.

Mark your calendar! Application deadline: Feb 23, 2024, at 5 pm EST. [Click here to apply.](#)

Want to learn more, catch an info session on [Feb 13](#) or [Feb 15](#). Click the date to RSVP.



### Join the Fight: Preserving AmeriCorps for Foster Youth's Bright Futures

URGENT!!! This week, the congressional funding committees are meeting, and they must make some difficult choices about what gets funded in the coming year. Lawmakers have proposed deep cuts to AmeriCorps, eliminating at least 61,000 service member positions. AmeriCorps has proven to be a pathway to professional success and self-sufficiency for hundreds of foster youth through iFoster's TAY AmeriCorps program. Please stand with them and the thousands more foster youth for whom service is a pathway to independence and careers by sharing with Congress that AmeriCorps is a vital resource we can't afford to lose.

[Please take two minutes to email or tweet at your lawmakers and ask them to stand for service.](#) After participating, encourage your friends and families to take action, too. Thank you for being supportive of AmeriCorps!



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