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News & Media

Foster a Dream increases support for teens and young adults in foster care

Port Saint Lucie – A program that prepares teens and young adults for life after foster care got a much needed bolt of support earlier this month, when the Kathryn A. Basile Foster a Dream Foundation awarded Devereux CBC a \$7,500 grant to help pay for program expenses.

The award was a 25 percent increase over last year and will be used to pay for high-school graduation expenses, college campus visits and other costs associated with the making the transition into adulthood.

It's all part of Devereux CBC's Road to Success program, which teaches independent living skills to teenagers in foster care beginning at age 17.

"We're pleased to continue our support of the Road to Success program," Foundation President Steven Basile said. "The program fits perfectly with our mission, because it helps to provide teens in foster care with important tools and programs that they may not get anywhere else."

Kathryn A. Basile believed that any child in foster care could find success with the right support. That was her dream – a dream now fostered by the foundation set up in memory of the woman known locally as a champion for children's rights.

"Kathryn was a true champion for children and teen-agers," said Basile, who was Kathryn's brother. "She devoted her entire career to their education and well-being."

Since the foundation was created in 2010, Foster a Dream has contributed nearly \$30,000 and helped more than 30 teenagers in foster care.

"The foundation has been instrumental in ensuring local youth in foster care are able to participate in normal senior-year activities and has allowed for the Road to Success program to create incentives for academic achievement," Program Supervisor Chris Martinez said.

The grant is used for college-bound, high-school seniors to participate in activities like homecoming, prom and Grad Night and to purchase items like class rings, yearbooks, caps and gowns and senior class shirts. The grant also has been used to purchase laptop computers for incoming college freshman and has allowed local youth interested in advocating on behalf of children in foster care to travel to Tallahassee and Washington D.C. to participate in legislative events.

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