

The one-stop shop on the track to success

Dear Caregivers,

We understand that it takes a village to provide the best support for our youth. We are always looking for information, events and community partners to share with you in our newsletters. This edition is focused on the unique resources available to our youth.

Sincerely,

Your Youth Services Team



EMPLOYMENT

MARCH 19
12-4 PM



2025 CFEC Job Fair Schedule

Dates: January 29, March 19, May 14
July 9, September 10, October 29

Time: 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Venue: Central Florida Fairgrounds, Expo Buildings

Address: 4603 W Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32808

Registration: All attendees need to register in advance.

Join us for our next Job Fair with 85 to 100 employers and numerous job openings across industries. Register in advance to attend & to get access to the CFEC Job Fair Mobile App for connecting with employers and applying for jobs. Networking is key, and this event offers a great opportunity for face-to-face interactions. Dress professionally and bring resumes. Presented by the Central Florida Employment Connections CFEC.

Find out more online at...

 www.CFEC.org

EDUCATION

AOK SCHOLARS

SUPPORTED BY
LAWRENCE E. WHITE FAMILY FOUNDATION

WHO WE SERVE

The AOK Scholars Program is an application-based nonprofit program that supports former foster youth and those experiencing homelessness in attending a post secondary school in the state of Florida

HOW WE SUPPORT STUDENTS



- Needs based financial assistance
- Coaching on financial management and life skills
- Incentives for academic progress
- Professional development opportunities

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **2.5** Cumulative GPA
- **12 hours** college credit
- Recipient of a **DCF waiver** or **Homeless Fee Exemption**
- **Age 18-26** and expecting to graduate prior to age 28
- Attending a school in **Florida**

*We accept VOTECH students on a case by case basis

3 KINDS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



1. **Basic Necessities** (rent, groceries, utilities.)
2. **Academic Needs** (textbooks, tutoring fees, school supplies)
3. **Professional development** (conference fees, professional organization dues, certification exams)

QUESTIONS?

Email: info@aokscholars.org

Website: <https://aokscholars.org>

ACADEMIC INCENTIVES

We love to celebrate our Students' success. Two ways we do that are through Good Grade Awards and Graduation Awards, which are available every semester

www.aokscholars.org

LIFE SKILLS

EMPOWER
PROGRAM



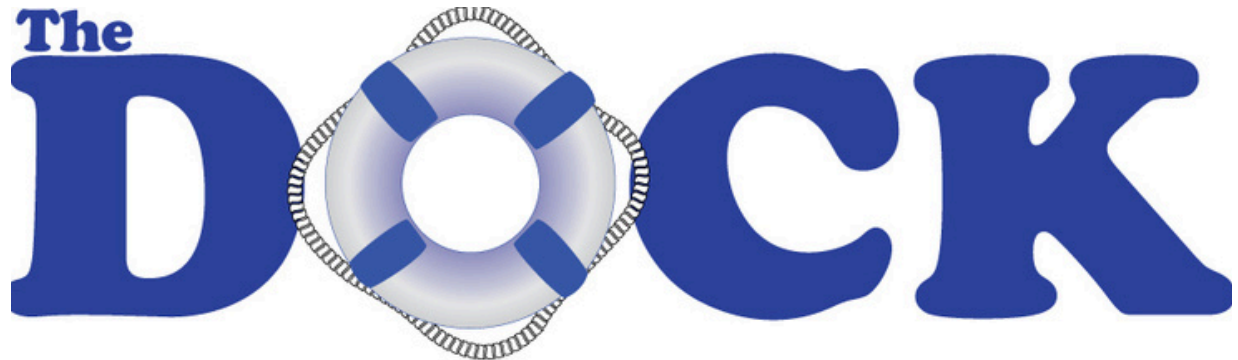
FOUNDATION FOR
Foster Children

Transition to Adulthood:

- Any foster youth aged 14 to 24 in out-of-home care or EFC/PESS residing in or managed from Orange, Osceola or Seminole County.
- Connecting youth to available community resources, programs and assistance through mentorship and personalized support.
- Their team of advocates will provide one-on-one guidance in life skills and transitioning to adulthood.

ENGAGEMENT

BREVARD COUNTY



DORCAS OUTREACH CENTER for KIDS

"Acts 9:36"

After-school Program

Hours:

Monday - Thursday:

2-6 PM

Friday: 1-6 PM

contact@mysite.com

- Since the DOCK opened its doors in 2004, no actively engaged kid has dropped out of school.
- 39 volunteers regularly serve at the DOCK each week to assist with homework, tutoring, recreational activities, administrative tasks and other projects.
- Attending the DOCK during the school year is at no cost to caregivers.
- 100% high school graduation rate!
39 high school graduates to date.

ADVOCACY

**MARCH 9
4 PM**



Know Your Rights: When Entering Care

Florida's Children First
Staff Attorney, Christine Smith
will lead a discussion and provide
tips on how to ensure you're
educated about your rights in foster
care.



First Tuesday of
the Month
@4pm!



Register
HERE
to Join!



SCAN ME 



STYLE SECTION

CLOTHING CLOSET



COMMUNITY

CLOSET

- OUR CLOSET IS OPEN TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.
- CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE FOR :
WOMEN, MEN, BOYS, AND GIRLS.

**9401 W. COLONIAL DR. SUITE#626
OCOOE, FL. (INSIDE THE WEST OAKS MALL)**

CONTACT US

1-888-306-4477



EXTRA, EXTRA

WEEKLY RESOURCES



Do your youth want to stay connected to ongoing updates on events and resources? Follow our Instagram account @youthservicesoffpocf

Marva Young

Independent Living Administrator
Marva Young works closely with youth ages 13-17 to assess their unique needs and supervises four of our independent living specialists.

Fun facts: She loves to sing and is a huge fan of college sports.

marvayoung@crosswindsyouthservices.org

Safa Pinnock

Independent Living Specialist
Safa Pinnock helps support our youth ages 13-17.

Safapinnock@crosswindsyouthservices.org

Michele Cassel

Michele has been an independent living specialist for more than 15 years. Her current focus is supporting our younger youth in their transition plan meetings.

Fun facts: She loves doing handiwork such as crocheting, needlepoint and cross stitch.

michelecassel@crosswindsyouthservices.org

Steve Purkey

Independent Living Specialist
Steve Purkey helps young adults
transition into adulthood, seeing
himself as their cheerleader.

Fun facts: He spent many years in
the Navy, has held several
managerial positions, seen a little bit
of the world, and has made many
mistakes, which he believes are the
best lessons a person can have.

stevepurkey@crosswindsyouthservices.org

Caitlen Christensen

Independent Living
Specialist Caitlen
Christensen helps to support
our youth ages 13-17.

caitlenchristensen@crosswindsyouthservices.org

YOUTH
SPOTLIGHT

THERMON WILLIAMS



Therman recently graduated from the culinary program at Second Harvest Food Bank and is now employed at Universal Studios!