

## Additional Work to Improve Outcomes

ACTION Ohio partners with public and private foster care agencies to plan and facilitate conferences, workshops and activities for foster care youth, ages 14+

### Examples include:

- Cooking Classes
- Independent Living Activities
- COTA Bus Scavenger Hunts
- Field Trips Focused on Social Skills and Preparation for the Future
- Leadership Trainings
- County, Regional and Statewide Youth Conferences



IMPROVING OUTCOMES AFTER FOSTER CARE.

[info@fosteractionohio.org](mailto:info@fosteractionohio.org)

c/o OACCA

1151 Bethel Road, Suite 104B

Columbus OH 43220

OACCA's Federal Tax ID #: 34-1168205



IMPROVING OUTCOMES AFTER FOSTER CARE.

## Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now

Our organization is dedicated to improving outcomes for current and former foster care youth.

We bring together the voices of foster care youth, alumni and allies to create lasting change and generate hope for current and former foster youth, based on access to resources, ally support and alumni expertise.

## Suits for Success

*Suits for Success* provides professional attire to current and former foster youth who are preparing to enter the workforce.

This program was created in 2011 by Ohio foster care alumni and the Ohio State Bar Foundation. ACTION Ohio takes the lead on facilitation, with regional suits drives and behind-the-scenes assistance organized by the Ohio State Bar Foundation.

The success of this ongoing initiative reflects the support of many organizational partners, including OACCA, the United Methodist Children's Home, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

**We welcome support from individuals and organizations.** Donations accepted include: suits, ties, dress shirts, pants, women's tops, skirts, purses, bags, belts, scarves, accessories, shoes and clothes hangers. Suitcases are welcome as well.

If your organization is willing to serve as a drop-off point, to sponsor the cost of dry-cleaning or to provide long- or short-term storage, please let us know.

## OHIO Youth Advisory Board

ACTION Ohio is honored to serve as facilitator for the OHIO Youth Advisory Board.

The *Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board* (OHIO YAB) is a statewide organization of young people (aged 14-24) who have experienced foster care.

The OHIO YAB exists to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that affect all youth who have or will experience out-of-home care.

This group believes in the power of youth voice, and actively works to establish and develop county and regional youth advisory boards. Its members work to influence policies and practice that impact current and former foster youth.

Focus areas of the OHIO YAB include education, employment, independent living preparation, transitional housing and youth voice in court.

## Thanksgiving Together

*Thanksgiving Together* has been taking place in Ohio since 2008.

ACTION Ohio works with our partners to host annual early Thanksgiving dinners for foster care teens (ages 14+) and alumni.

For those of us who have experienced foster care firsthand, holidays can be a reminder of lost connections.

As former foster youth ourselves, we want our brothers and sisters to know that they always have a seat at our table for Thanksgiving dinner each year.

Additional information is available at:  
<http://thanksgivingtogether.wikispaces.com/>

**We welcome support from individuals and organizations.**

To learn more, please contact our Communications Chair, Lisa Dickson, (614) 787-5257, [lisa@fosteractionohio.org](mailto:lisa@fosteractionohio.org)

## Three Days on the Hill

*Three Days on the Hill* is designed to provide foster care youth and alumni with opportunities to further their leadership development. This annual trip was first launched in 2013, by Ohio foster care alumni.

After participating in DC-based training and preparation, participants share their expertise and insights to educate for positive change.

Through various meetings with state and federal legislators, participants learn about our nation's policy and legislative processes and how these processes impact issues that affect them.

We are currently planning ahead for next year, and seeking to make it possible for even more young people to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity.

To learn more, please contact our Communications Chair, Lisa Dickson, (614) 787-5257, [lisa@fosteractionohio.org](mailto:lisa@fosteractionohio.org)

## College for the Day

*College for a Day* is designed to provide foster care youth, ages 14+, with firsthand experiences on a college campus.

Hosted at OSU twice per year, this event includes information about admissions, financial aid, and campus housing.

Students are able to tour campus tours, and participate in focus groups to share their questions and insights.

We are very grateful to our partners in this endeavor, including:

*Buckeyes for Adoption and Foster Care*  
*OSU Center for Higher Education Enterprise*  
*OSU P12 Initiative*  
*OSU College of Education and Human Ecology*  
*OSU College of Social Work*  
*Franklin County Children Services*  
*Starfish Alliance*  
*Ohio CASA*

## Pay It Forward

*Pay It Forward* invites donations of baby clothing and gently used toys for boys and girls, in order to provide them to former foster youth who are now parents themselves, and striving to be the parent that they never had.

We specifically focus on clothing for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, as well as stuffed animals.

With help from *Columbus Gives Back*, we sort the clothing and create customized care packages based on clothing size, boy vs. girl, and outfits that go well together.

We give out the donations as needed, but particularly during our annual regional Thanksgiving dinners for foster care teens and alumni.

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