



IMPROVING OUTCOMES AFTER FOSTER CARE.



## **ACTION Ohio**

**ACTION Ohio (Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now)** is dedicated to improving outcomes for current and former foster care youth. Our initiatives include: *Thanksgiving Together*, *Three Days on the Hill*, *Pay It Forward*, *College for the Day*, and facilitating the statewide youth advisory board.

## **Statewide Youth Advisory Board**

The ***Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB)*** is Ohio's statewide voice 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 impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

## **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: [fosteractionohio.org/thanksgiving-together](http://fosteractionohio.org/thanksgiving-together)

## **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.

Additional information is available at: [fosteractionohio.org/three-days-on-the-hill](http://fosteractionohio.org/three-days-on-the-hill)

## **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. 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.

Additional information is available at: [fosteractionohio.org/pay-it-forward/](http://fosteractionohio.org/pay-it-forward/)

## **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.

This program is currently on hiatus, because we are seeking a future storage location for Suits for Success:

Additional information is available at: [fosteractionohio.org/suits-for-success/](http://fosteractionohio.org/suits-for-success/)

## **College for the Day**

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

This OSU 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.

Learn more at: [fosteractionohio.org/osu-college-for-the-day/](http://fosteractionohio.org/osu-college-for-the-day/)

## **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