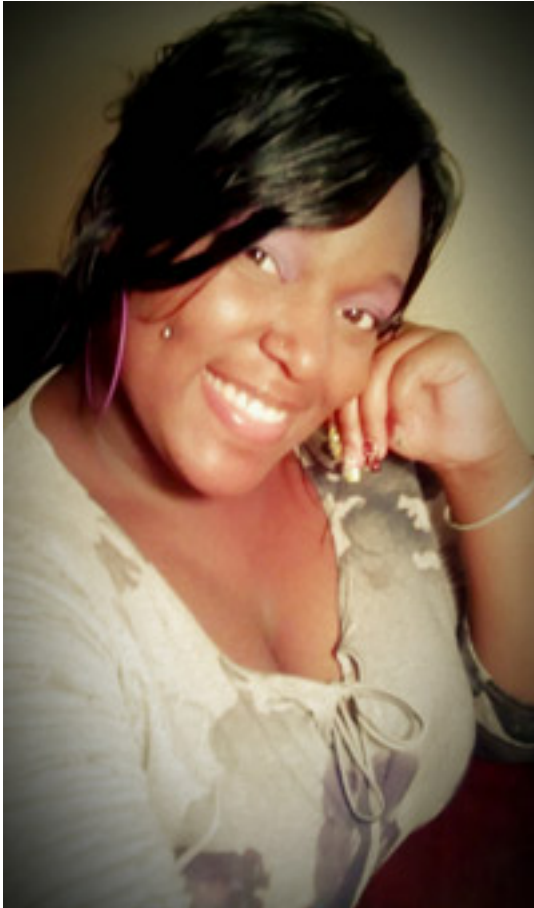


Transitions: From foster care to life on their own

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr.
Friday, 17 May 2013 09:46



Life on one's own is a daunting task.

It is even more daunting for young adults who have been in foster care – often bouncing from residence to residence with very little stability and no real support system of which to speak. Things most take for granted, such as establishing and maintaining a banking account or budgeting for monthly expenses, oftentimes go untaught to foster children. For some children in the foster care system, the primary concern is surviving each day, not planning for tomorrow.

With this in mind, one organization is working to assist teens and young adults in the Hennepin County foster care system and help them transition into life on their own.

Connections to Independence (C2i), was initially founded as a program within Summit Academy OIC but in 2009 the program became an organization onto itself, with then program manager Jessica Rogers taking over as executive director. The mission of C2i is to prepare youth for living independently as they get closer to reaching adulthood and aging out of the foster care system. Participants are typically between the ages of 15-21 and focus on a healthy mind, body, and soul approach to learning independent living skills. Youth are assigned an independent living skills counselor who they work with until they exit the program.

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