

**Ready
for Life**

*R U Ready
for Life?*

ReadyForLifePinellas.org

... B Heard!

Special thanks to the following for their support of Ready for Life:

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County - \$18,000

Dyer Family Foundation - \$15,000

Tom & Donna Gaffney - \$15,000

Exchange Club of N.E. St. Petersburg - \$5,000

Mary Wheeler - \$1,000

Clearwater-Dunedin Jr. League - \$1,000

A special thank you to our interns!



and dedication.

Ready for Life would like to thank Rachelle, Nicole, and Monique for all their hard work during their internship with us. All three graduated and we are going to miss them greatly! The Interns assisted RFL with youth development and recruitment efforts, youth council, fund raising, grant writing, serving on committees, and many, many other things. A special THANK YOU to Rachelle, Nicole and Monique for all their hard work

**We are so proud of you and we wish you well in the next phase of your life!
You are truly going to be missed!**



“Get Motivated” Seminar

St. Petersburg College donated Ready for Life ten tickets to attend a one day Get Motivated Seminar. Ready for Life was able to send youth and staff to attend this action-packed, fun-filled, explosive, exciting, inspiring, skill-building business event. We would like to thank St. Petersburg College for donating the tickets so our youth and staff could hear nationally well known speakers that provided messages on "How to Stay Motivated", "Take Charge Leadership", "The Tenacity to Persevere: How to Make it Through Any Crisis", "How to Sharpen Your Competitive Edge", "How to Lead Your Team to Victory", "Tough Times Never Last but Tough People Do" The youth and staff were inspired through this event!



Wheels to the Future Pilot Program Gives Vehicles to Area Youths Aging out of Foster Care



Working Wheels Keep Families Working

Coming of age in the foster care system with no family standing by to provide that first car can be daunting. The Eckerd Family Foundation's financial contribution, partially matched by The Rotary Club of Tampa, has made possible a program seeking to help meet this need for area youth – namely, Wheels to the Future, a pilot program of Wheels of Success.

Wheels to the Future placed its first teen in the driver's seat of his newly painted Volvo in May of 2009. To date it has put 5 youths in their own vehicles and repaired another in partnership with Connected by 25 and Camelot Community Care. Through a grant from the DeBartolo Foundation, Wheels to the Future is being continued this year and expanded to include a partnership with Ready for Life to provide Pinellas youths with the same opportunity. The keys were given to its first recipient, Melissa Marchman at the Wheels of Success annual luncheon last month. The hope for this much needed effort is to award one car each month, alternating between Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, to a deserving youth moving on to full-time employment and/or an advanced education.

Individuals wishing to contribute funds to this important program to help with vehicles repairs or car insurance or to donate a vehicle specifically earmarked for a local youth aging out of the foster care system are encouraged to call Susan Jacobs at Wheels of Success (813) 490-9443.



Founded in 2003, Wheels of Success is Tampa Bay's only 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing a full range of transportation solutions, including vehicle replacement and car repairs as well as licensing, car payment and down payment assistance to low and moderate income working families. For more information, please visit www.wheelsofsuccess.org.

Thank you to Suncoast Voices for Children for their assistance with funds to pay costs associated with registration and tag!

“Beach Goes Pop” Event

The Beach Goes Pop Committee invited Ready for Life to participate in The Beach Goes Pop event on April 24, 2010 at Pass a Grill Park. This event has been hosted for the past 20 years through the Association of Vina Del Mar. Ready for Life had a table, which allowed us to share our purpose within the community. We would like to thank the Association of Pass A Grill and Lisa Marone for involving RFL in this event!



Second Image Thrift Store Partnership



Ready for Life, Inc. and Family Resources' Second Image Thrift Shop has entered into a partnership. Every month on the first Monday of the month the thrift shop will bring a truck to the parking lot of Ready for Life. Please bring your donations of clothes, sheets, towels, furniture, electronics, dishes, pots, pans, purses, etc. and put it in the truck. Ready for Life will be provided with vouchers to give to the youth aging out of foster care so they can go and shop at Second Image and purchase what they need. You can also drop off donations anytime at the store and let them know it is for Ready for Life. The store is located at 9115 US Highway 19 North, Pinellas Park.

The truck will be at RFL on Monday, June 7th from 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The address is 2731 13th Ave. North, St. Petersburg.

ACE Award Winner

The Exchange Club of N.E. St. Pete, proud sponsors of Ribfest, presented their Annual ACE Award to Falana Shannon. ACE stands for Accepting the Challenge of Excellence. This award is presented to a youth that has overcome tremendous challenges in their life and have been able to stay in school and graduate. Falana has demonstrated that through hard work, perseverance and the support of others you can achieve your goals. Falana went on to compete on the statewide level where she won the Florida District Exchange Clubs ACE Award Winner for the state. This award provides a scholarship on the local level and the statewide level and Falana will now compete for this national award. We are so proud of Falana!



Thank you to the Exchange Club of N.E. St. Pete for providing this award each year to recognize a youth that has worked so hard to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

2010 Survivors Speak: Banners of Courage

Thursday, May 20, 2010 – USF St. Petersburg Poynter Memorial Library

For the 9th consecutive year, Suncoast Center, Inc. (formerly as Family Service Centers) and Florida Craftsmen, Inc. collaborated to present *Survivors Speak*, an exhibit featuring artwork created by survivors of sexual violence. Each year a different theme and design guide creation of powerful art pieces which are displayed during the month of April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A closing reception then presents select client stories, Suncoast Center Trauma Services staff, and other guest speakers to further increase awareness, understanding, and prevention of this horrific trauma. Each piece in the exhibit is as unique as each survivor's experience, and provides an intimate window into the pain and healing found along their personal journeys of recovery. Nicole Marchman, Ready for Life, Inc. Intern, presented her story.



This year's theme, "Banners of Courage", represented art from more than 40 clients ranging in age from three to 52.

Nearly 100 supporters, staff, clients and community members filled the USF St. Petersburg Poynter Library on May 20, 2010 to celebrate the inspirational achievements of these survivors.

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Invest in the future of "Our Youth"

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\$55 - Provides a bus pass for a year for a youth transitioning out of foster care.

\$100 - Provides a "Move In" kit for a foster youth. This kit will include items such as towels, bedding, pots & pans, kitchen supplies, dishes and bath items.

\$250 - Provides assistance to a youth for emergency needs such as food, medical and clothing.

\$500 - Provides a stipend for a Youth Council member for one year.

\$1000 - Provides assistance to secure housing for a youth transitioning out of care.

\$2,500 - Provides Ready for Life with resources to assist youth with a successful transition out of foster care.

\$10,000 - Ready for Life Partner. Provides funding to secure the continuation of support to "Our Youth" aging out of the foster care system.

Get Involved, Make a Difference, Provide Hope

Ready for Life is looking for business partners in our community to provide:

- Employment & Internship opportunities for foster youth
- Gift Certificates to local stores, restaurants and local events
- Funding for youth incentives, youth stipends & basic needs
- Volunteers for our Community Committee's
- Mentoring for a youth transitioning out of foster care

Get involved...together we CAN make a difference!

Kathy Mize
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