

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

36th Annual

“Growing Pains 2024”

*For adults and youth*

16+ CEUs  
Available!



+ DANIEL MEMORIAL



INSTITUTE

*National Independent Living Conference*

*August 27-30, 2024 - Orlando, Florida*

*Exploring Best Practices and Innovations in Independent Living and Foster Care*

# GROWING PAINS 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I'm delighted to welcome both returning and new participants to the 36th Annual National Independent Living Conference, hosted by the Daniel Memorial Institute in the vibrant city of Orlando, FL.




Our goal is to provide you with an exceptional experience! Throughout the conference, you'll engage with knowledgeable speakers and educators from across the country, gaining insights to enhance your independent living (IL) training.


Workshops will address critical issues affecting the youth we serve, offering evidence-based practices and promising solutions. As you connect with experts, you'll find networking opportunities and personal growth. We hope this conference leaves you feeling it was the "best one yet!"

With Warm Regards,  
*Lesley Wells*

Lesley Wells, President/CEO  
Daniel Memorial, Inc.



 Follow us on Facebook!  
**DMConference**

 **dmconference1987**

 **@DMConference**

## Conference Hotel

Hotel charges are not included in conference registration fee.

This year's conference will be held at the **Rosen Centre Hotel** (9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819). In addition to an array of recreation activities on-site, the hotel offers the perfect base to explore Orlando's world-famous attractions—all within minutes.



**Parking fee:** \$10 per day for self-parking. Regularly \$25

## Conference Questions?

### Contact Information:

#### Daniel Memorial Institute

Stephanie Waugerman, Associate Director of Conferences  
4203 Southpoint Blvd. - Jacksonville, FL 32216  
p: (904) 296-1055 x1013  
conferences@danielkids.org; www.danielkids.org

## Do you need CEUs for licensure/credentials?

Make sure to pick up a CEU form from the conference registration desk and fill in each of your selected workshops. After attending each session, have facilitator or any conference staff sign off on the form. To receive credit for your attendance, follow the additional instructions provided to submit your completed CEU form.

### Continuing Education Units

Daniel Memorial is approved for CEUs by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling and Certified Master Social Worker. Provider # 50-481, expires 03/31/25. Individuals needing CEU filing will be assessed an administrative fee of \$20. It is your responsibility to contact your local licensing/certification board directly to determine CE eligibility and filing requirements in your state.

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Registration/Information Booth Open
10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions)	Pre-Conference Institutes ( <i>lunch on your own</i> )
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Welcome Dessert Reception

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

7:30 am - 4:00 pm	Registration/Information Booth Open Exhibitor/Resource Fair Open
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Opening General Session
10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions)	Session A Adult Workshops Youth General Session
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>provided</i> )
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm (Concurrent Sessions)	Session B Workshops
2:45 pm - 4:15 pm (Concurrent Sessions)	Session C Workshops

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Registration/Information Booth Open Exhibitor/Resource Fair Open
9:00 am - 10:15 am	General Session II
10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions)	Session D Workshops
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch ( <i>On your own</i> )
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions)	Session E Workshops
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Bonus Session: Peer to Peer Discussion with Open Forum
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Dance

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024

8:30 am - 11:00 am	Registration/Information Booth Open Exhibitor/Resource Fair Open
9:00 am - 10:30 am (Concurrent Sessions)	Session F Workshops
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	General Session III <i>Brunch Served</i>

## IMPORTANT CONFERENCE INFORMATION

*Please read!*

### WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Each workshop description includes the specific room location of that workshop. See meeting space map for details.

### ADULT, YOUTH OR MIXED WORKSHOPS

Adult or Youth workshops are determined by the appropriate topics applicable (not necessarily by age). Adult workshops are geared to professionals working with youth in independent living and foster care programs whereas the youth workshops are geared to those needing to develop the skills necessary to transition into independent living. We also offer mixed workshops appropriate for both adult and youth audiences.

### CONFERENCE ATTIRE

For adults: business casual. Youth: acceptable casual wear is jeans, t-shirts, sundresses, appropriate shorts. Shorts, skirts, dresses, or skorts, should be at least mid-thigh. Undergarments should not be visible. No droopy pants or exposed midriffs please.

### MEALS

Breakfast breads and refreshments will be provided for attendees on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Selections will include bagels, muffins, coffee and tea. **For alternate selections, please visit the nearby eateries.**

Lunch will be provided on Wednesday. Beverages (only) will be available on Tuesday and Friday mornings and brunch will be served during the closing session on Friday. *Special dietary meal requirements must be arranged with the conference director at least 24 hours prior to the meal function. Requests made without sufficient notice may not be accommodated.*

### EVALUATIONS

To help us plan for future conferences, we ask you to complete the evaluation form as you go through each day (found in your conference packet) and return it to the registration desk at the end of the conference. This information is very helpful in planning future successful events. It is *imperative* that you include the workshop number in order to know which session the feedback relates to.

### CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Complimentary Certificates of Attendance will be available to all attendees at the Information Booth on Friday, after the closing session.

### RECYCLING

We happily reuse name badges! Before you leave to go home from the conference, drop your badge at the registration desk for recycling. Thank you!

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Honorable Honorable Erica Adeyemi

The Honorable Erica Adeyemi is a trailblazer, as one of the youngest members of any state's legislative body and one of the first orphans to hold political office. She is a versatile young leader serving in many capacities as author, speaker, mentor, philanthropist, political consultant, media personality, nationally renowned foster care advocate, Brand Ambassador and Georgia State Representative, representing Georgia's 39th house district in Cobb County.

Rep. Thomas has taken a demanding global approach to the economic and environmental development of the world. As an innovative trailblazer and entrepreneur with a passion for inspiring others, she is the founder of Speak Out Loud, a nonprofit which focuses on public speaking, leadership development, training and advocacy. Speak Out Loud is dedicated to giving a voice to foster children who have been silenced by their circumstances and has expanded and organized across the country with chapters in Botswana and Nigeria. In 2013, Rep. Thomas was awarded the Ambassador for Peace Award from the Global Peace Foundation and has worked to establish libraries in various locations on the continent of Africa.



## Dr. Elizabeth Wynter

Dr. Elizabeth Wynter, an award-winning advocate, has dedicated over two decades to transforming child welfare policies and practices, tirelessly advocating for change. Her pioneering initiatives, notably National Foster Youth Voice Month and her Foster Youth Voice Champion Blog, challenge stereotypes by reshaping perceptions of youth from passive service recipients to essential organizational assets. In Wynter's influential book, "Follow the Love: Permanent Connections Scaffolding," she charts a path for agencies to embrace youth voices and establish lasting connections.

Receiving her Bachelor's in Merchandising from Florida State University, Master's in Mental Health Counseling, and Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University with a dissertation on transitioning youth was more than an academic achievement for Dr. Wynter; it symbolized a journey of self-discovery and dedication to empowering others.

Dr. Wynter stands as a force of nature—a visionary leader with an untamed heart. Her relentless advocacy and dedication to a cause greater than herself continue to inspire change-makers. Dr. Wynter's work is a testament to the power of collective impact for youth transitioning, and her unwavering commitment serves as a beacon of hope for vulnerable young individuals, reshaping the world for the better.



## Christopher Salem

Christopher Salem is a highly authentic person who shares from experience, what has worked successfully through hard work and dedication to help in your challenges. While Chris has experienced much success over a 26-year career as a Senior Sales Executive selling media, aircraft, investing in businesses, and implementing residual income platforms, there also been major setbacks such as dealing with 12 years of addiction and battling with his own demons.

Eventually, he found a way to address the addiction and issues that held him back from experiencing a higher level of prosperity where health & wealth are in alignment. This led to Chris' mission to share and empower others to do the same so their businesses and personal lives could truly experience the meaning of prosperity on all levels.

Chris delivers world-class content to audiences as a speaker that is high-impact which shifts people toward positive action. The focus is on the "root cause" that leads to changes and results, thus moves the audience toward improving their business and personal life. Always coming from the heart and personal experience, the audience is able to draw their own conclusions as to what is required of themselves to come out of their comfort zone and strive toward prosperity. Unlike seminars or programs that scratch the surface, the focus is always on the audience to make changes by addressing the "root cause" that holds back their greatness. Chris is 100% committed to SERVING & TRAINING the audience.

10:00a-3:00p

Registration Location: *Grand Ballroom Foyer - Registration Desk 2- Lunch is from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm (on your own)*

**P1** (Adult)

Location: Salon 16

**DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION SYSTEM OF CARE FOR OLDER YOUTH**

Spend a day with one of the highly respected veterans in the field of independent living. Learn how to develop a continuum of successful independent living services from pre-independent living preparation for foster youth to a variety of living arrangement options for teens going out on their own. Mark Kroner has been passionately involved in the Independent and Transitional Living fields for over 30 years as a 22 year program director, life skills trainer, national advocate, researcher and consultant. He has trained thousands of professionals nationwide and will share his ideas on training, housing, funding, permanency outcomes and getting the whole system involved. If you are starting an independent living program or are looking for ways to enhance your existing program, then this institute is for you. *Presented by: Mark Kroner*

**P2** (Adult)

Location: Salon 17

**WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES**

During this workshop, we will cover topics that include; What it means to develop youth for success after the foster care system, How to deal with an overwhelming case load and maintain sanity, Life after 5 O'clock, Advocating for the betterment of your youth, Bridging the gap of communication between youth and staff, Leading with integrity and Mentorship. *Presented by: Nathaniel Barton*

**P3** (Mixed)

Location: Salon18

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE GENERATIONS: TOOLS FOR MULTIGENERATIONAL TEAM BUILDING**

This informative, interactive, workshop identifies the different characteristics of each generation, highlighting their communication style preferences and the best way to effectively communicate with them. These tools are essential for team building across generations. Assets and opportunities for each generation will be discussed so that attendees will know how to build teams where players will be able to work with and learn from each other. *Presented by: Dolores King*

KEY TO WORKSHOP NUMBERING:

**P:** The letter indicates the session (P = Pre-conference, A = A sessions, B = B sessions, etc)

**3:** The number represents the sequential session number  
**(Audience)** The parenthesis indicates the intended audience (Adult, Youth or Mixed)

**Welcome Dessert Network Reception**

7:00-8:00p

Location: Signature 1

*Join other conference attendees to acquaint with old friends and make new ones during this great networking opportunity.*



7:30a-4:00p

Location: Registration Desk 2  
 Registration/Information Booth Open  
*Breakfast breads and refreshments provided*

Location: Executive Ballroom Foyer  
 Exhibit Area Open

9:00a-10:15a

**Opening General Session by Honorable Erica Adeyemi**

Location: Executive Ballroom

**STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM**

A powerful and inspiring address that draws upon the personal journey of Erica, who was once a foster child and has now achieved success. Her speech is specifically tailored to resonate with children in the Foster Care system and their dedicated caseworkers. Through heartfelt storytelling and relatable experiences, Erica will share her own challenges, triumphs, and the lessons learned along the way. Her speech aims to instill hope, resilience, and a sense of possibility in the audience, demonstrating that regardless of their circumstances, they have the potential to overcome obstacles and create a bright future for themselves. Erica's personal success story serves as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging the audience to believe in their own abilities and strive for greatness.

**KEY TO WORKSHOP NUMBERING:**

**A:** The letter indicates the session (A = A sessions, B = B sessions, etc)

**3:** The number represents the sequential session number  
**(Audience)** The parenthesis indicates the intended audience (Adult, Youth or Mixed).

10:30a-12:00p

**A1 (Adult)**

Location: Salon 21

**IT TAKES A SYSTEM; GETTING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY INVOLVED AND IN DEVELOPING SELF-SUFFICIENCY SKILLS IN OLDER YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

The challenges of becoming self-sufficient have never been more difficult for all American youth and young adults. We cannot wait until youth in our programs are ready to leave care to start teaching important life skills. This workshop will discuss practical ways of getting everyone involved in this process; foster parents, social workers, case-managers, CASAs, juvenile court staff, volunteers, group homes and others. *Presented by: Mark Kroner*

**A2 (Adult)**

Location: Salon 13

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE: COMMUNITY RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Prevention efforts aim to address risk and protective factors to improve outcomes for youth in care. Most efforts focus on individual and interpersonal factors; however, communities also provide an opportunity to improve educational outcomes for youth in care. This workshop will examine community-level risk and protective factors for educational achievement and provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen community-level approaches to support older youth in care. *Presented by: Khalilah Louis Caines*

**A3 (Adult)**

Location: Salon 11

**TRAUMA INFORMED CARE**

Providing trauma informed care strategies for Adults serving within the field of foster care. These psychology based practices for coaching Adults on how to best support foster youth will include; Empowerment, collaboration, transparency, trust, Support, recognizing triggers, communication strategies, proxemics awareness as well as safety protocols. *Presented by: Mark-Anthony Estrada*

## A4 (Adult)

Location: Salon 20

### LET'S GET READY TO CONFERENCE

“Let’s Get Ready To Conference” is a highly interactive presentation led by the charismatic Mr. Michael Guinn. Michael is a renowned speaker/actor/advocate and conference favorite. His workshop provides an opportunity for social service professionals to take a deep breath before diving into those sometimes super “emotional sessions”. Michael successfully fuses the art of creative self-expression to boost an individuals’ ability to create healthy expectations and positive perspectives as it pertains to the work we do and the populations we serve. So if you have the task of being both chaperone, agency professional and attendee then come join us for a riveting session that is guaranteed to provide the creative momentum that will sustain you throughout the conference. *Presented by: Michael Guinn*

## A5 (Adult)

Location: Salon 14

### COLLEGE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE

The Education and Training Voucher is a federal fund put in place to assist students coming from foster care with living expenses while attending postsecondary school. Unfortunately, a small percentage of eligible students access the ETV benefit. This workshop will outline the ETV benefit and examine statistical findings from various states. Attendees will get an understanding of aftercare benefits and the unique challenges that foster care alumni face when aging out of care. *Presented by: Drew Melton*

## A6 (Adult)

Location: Salon 15

### TRANSFORMING IMPOSSIBILITIES INTO REALITIES

What is impossible to many can become a reality for all if you are ready to shift the youth and young adults that you serve from visionless to VISION-FULL. This workshop will equip agencies to educate and empower their young peoples' outcomes through the releasing of qualitative and quantitative results-driven strategies from Family Support Services of North Florida's Bridge to

Work Academy. This will launch other agency programs into helping their population grow from surviving to thriving. *Presented by: Si-Meon Russ and Oliver Green*

## A7 (Adult)

Location: Salon 16

### SUCCESSFUL FUTURES: SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS INTO ADULTHOOD

This is a skills-based program created to facilitate the transition of at-risk young adults from out-of-home care into the community. It aims to remove barriers for independent living and provides skills training. It uses a research approach that assesses participants independent living skills, supports available, and motivation levels. Results from the 2022 and 2023 graduating classes at Boys Town High School will be shared, and lessons learned from implementation will be discussed *Presented by: Michelle Tauber and Jasney Cogua*

## A8 (Youth)

### Youth General Session by Antonio Grate

Location: Grand Ballroom D

### SEED OF GREATNESS

From a lived experience, Ex Foster Child Antonio Grate wants every foster youth to know that Greatness is within them. Yes that’s right, greatness is within you. Unfortunately, for many of us it’s hard to believe this. To be honest it sounds very cliché-ish. When we reflect on our lives and our traumatic experiences. It leaves us not feeling very great. Despite the hurt, heartbreak and disappointment the greatness gene is within you. During this session you will discover, uncover and release your greatness from within.



*Antonio Grate is a Social and Emotional Strategist, professional speaker, author, minister, husband, and father of four. He has 7+ years experience in public speaking and mentoring and has delivered engaging and informative talks at National and State Child Welfare Conferences, various child welfare agencies, universities and schools nationwide. He currently travels the country sharing his story of*

aging out the foster care system, growing up in the ghetto of Chicago, his mother's addiction to drugs and not having his father in his life which has made him an expert in his field. His willingness and strong desire to pour into the lives of child welfare professionals, youth service workers, those in the foster care system, title 1 school students, juvenile detention youth, and church youth groups, stems from his passion to serve this generation and the next. His sole mission to equip them with the tools needed to become academically successful and increase emotional stability while becoming the best version of themselves is what sets Antonio apart. With great transparency, Antonio shares a motivating, inspiring, empowering, and transformative message. Antonio's mission is to tell his story of how he has overcome insurmountable odds to now live a life of joy, peace, happiness, and love. His passionate delivery and heartfelt sincerity touch the hearts of listeners and leave them wanting more.

12:00p-1:00p

Location: Executive Ballroom

LUNCH PROVIDED

Please enjoy this time to relax, network with other attendees and share your ideas and successes with your colleagues.



1:00p-2:30p

**B1** (Adult)

Location: Salon 21

**IS IL REALLY WORKING? I SURE AM!**

Are you an agency executive or program director? This popular open-forum, roundtable discussion will be a chance for those in the field to share thoughts and ideas on the challenges and successes of their independent living programs. Join in to learn about other approaches as well as to share your own. *Facilitated by: Mark Kroner*

Great for Networking!

**B2** (Adult)

Location: Salon 14

**CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Substance use is one of the most influential techniques that human traffickers use to coerce, manipulate, and exploit their victims. Substance is commonly used to prey on the persons vulnerabilities that leads to the recruitment of labor and sex trafficking. The trafficker may recruit people by luring them with drugs and alcohol. The traffickers may target individuals with existing substance abuse issues to recruit into a trafficking situation. The trafficker may also control their victim once they have a Substance Addiction. The Traffickers may also use substance addiction to keep victims in a trafficking situation. It can be framed as a reward or punishment, or to decrease the victim's ability to resist trafficking and abuse. The victim may also use substance abuse as a coping mechanism. *Presented by: Marina Anderson*

**B3** (Adult)

Location: Salon 15

**UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF THE FASCETS NEUROBEHAVIORAL MODEL**

Are you frustrated with someone you work with, parent or live with? Are there difficult behaviors that don't respond to anything you've tried? There is hope! The FASCETS Neurobehavioral Model looks at the link between brain and behavior and creates a good fit between the person, their abilities, the environment and



our expectations surrounding them. The Neurobehavioral Model applies to ALL invisible brain-based differences such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Autism, Dementia and many more. *Presented by: Kathryn Meinhardt*

**B4** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 12

**MINDFULNESS THROUGH MUSIC**

We will highlight the importance of mindfulness and skills that are used as "distraction" and coping strategies through different languages of music. Audience will get a chance to label emotions through song listening and also reflect. Audience will also learn new mindfulness activities to utilize in milieu settings and at home. *Presented by: Courtney Glover*

**B5** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 18

**CREATING CHANGE FOR FOSTER YOUTH THROUGH A DEI LENS**

Promises2Kids has stayed on the forefront of all major issues that have plagued foster care in San Diego. Promises2Kids believes we must challenge the conscious and unconscious biases that have disproportionately impacted foster youth, further driving systemic racism across care. We are committed to creating systemic change by championing diversity, equity, and inclusion. With an intentional and strategic approach to DEI efforts including the recruitment of diverse board members and staff, educating volunteers, and promoting diverse leadership, everyone in our organization is committed to driving and sustaining change for youth. *Presented by: Rashida Elimu*

**B6** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 13

**TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOR GEN Z AND GEN ALPHA: HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE**

Time never stands still, as expectations for youth increase they are often faced with the task of what is most important and where should I focus my attention. This interactive workshop provide Generation Z and Generation Alpha with the essential tools for time

management. Attendees will walk away with the ability to know how to manage their time daily activities along with SMART goal planning for the future. *Presented by: Dolores King*

**B7** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 11

**THE TRUTH ABOUT TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE: A YOUTH VOICE PERSPECTIVE**

Come learn from a youth's perspective what it's like coming of age in the foster care system. Youth panelists will talk about their experience in care and what their journey has been like as they transition into adulthood. The facilitators will guide this conversation around the services youth received from Connections to Independence (C2i) and how these services were instrumental during this process. Youth will share the brutal truth about their experience and how they achieved their goals. This is an open dialogue for youth and adults to learn and share in a safe forum so we will all leave with a sense of hope and positive outlook for this population that outcomes sometimes seem so dismal. *Presented by: Jessica Rogers*

**B8** (Youth)

Location: Salon 16

**IS IT YOU OR THE MASK?**

Regardless of where young people are placed in the child Welfare system, they need to development boundaries, good emotional health, positive self-esteem and the skills to build lifelong relationships. There are specific tips and tools that can help young people overcome the trauma of their past and see themselves in a different light. Participants will leave with concrete tools to develop a good understanding of themselves and as well as how other people see them. *Presented by: Stacia Burlingame-Averill and Doris Edelmann*



**B9** (Youth)

Location: Salon 20

**STRATEGIC SHARING**

Want to find your voice and learn how sharing your story can help others? Come learn how to reframe foster care experiences as expertise and how to safely tell stories by retaining boundaries. Empower yourself and others by effectively communicating your experiences. One of five workshops designed to equip young people with foster care experience to lead improvements in foster care and the child welfare system. Participants earn Lived Experience (LE<sub>x</sub>) Leader Certification for each completed course or the full LE<sub>x</sub> Leader Foundations series. *Presented by: FosterClub LE<sub>x</sub> (Lived Experience) Leaders*

**B10** (Youth)

Location: Salon 17

**FROM FOSTER TO FOSTERING**

Being in foster care is a struggle itself, but learning how to cope while striving to become a successful adult is even harder. C.A.R.E.S is a non-profit organization ran and owned by former foster youth who strive to teach young adults the basic life skills in becoming an adult while learning to use our past experiences to make change in the community. We teach basic meal prep/budget, how to appropriately use our voice for power and training professionals by former fosters. *Presented by: Dominique Mallard, Laurie Green and Brianna Lennon*

2:45P-4:15P

**C1** (Adult)

Location: Salon 14

**PARTNERING WITH RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES FOR LOW-COST HOUSING AND ON-SITE EMPLOYMENT: RESULTS FROM THE VICTORY LAP PILOT**

Your local retirement community could be your independent living (IL) solution for housing, employment, and support from caring adults. Learn how our 10 participants from TN's Extended Foster Care program fared living and working in retirement communities and how to make it work in your area. *Presented by: Rosemary Ramsey*

**C2** (Adult)

Location: Salon 15

**PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE: EMPOWERING TRANSITION AGED YOUTH FOR ADULTHOOD CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Pathways to Independence is an innovative continuing education option for transition-aged youth. The program offers structured transitional programming focused on academic success, Workforce readiness, Financial literacy, and Housing options for individuals touched by foster care. *Presented by: Jarrett Pratt*

**C3** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 12

**ADVOCATING WITH AUTHENTICITY & INTENT**

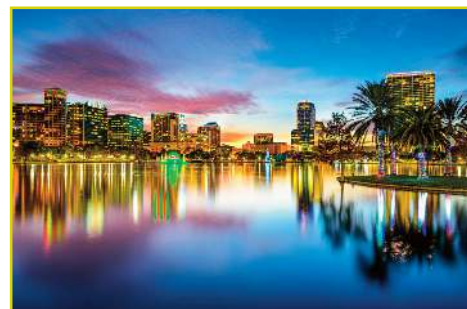
This session will emphasize the importance of effective advocacy through authenticity and intent. Presenters will illustrate the value that vulnerability and intent have on authentic advocacy. Presenters will then provide ways in which youth can be intentional in implementing vulnerable and emotional aspects of their personal stories that can truly enhance the authenticity of their advocacy, without compromising the integrity of their work. *Presented by: Glenda Wright and Tyler Hunter-Boards*

**C4** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 16

**SELF-ADVOCACY; AN ALUMNI'S PERSPECTIVE**

Imagine navigating life's challenges without a voice to advocate for your needs and rights. Sounds daunting, doesn't it? Advocacy is crucial in every aspect of our lives, especially when we are young and learning to become independent. It is not just a tool for change; it is the cornerstone of our ability to influence our lives. It empowers us to speak up, make informed decisions, and shape our own futures. *Presented by: Lexie Butler and Kimberly Raff*



**C5** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 17

**LEAVING CARE WELL PREPARED [S.O.A.R STEPPING OUT AFTER READY BY 21]**

We support Youth's exit from Foster Care to Self-Care. This workshop will encourage; self-awareness and self-care, coping and better communication skills, financial planning and how to grow your village. It is interactive, engaging and informative. *Presented by: Haley Kartey*

**C6** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 13

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING: SUPPORTING LGBTQIA YOUTH IN CARE**

With all of the controversy surrounding "DEI" in Florida it is paramount for anyone working with youth to have the skills to support any child who may identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ population. This interactive workshop will provide the tools necessary to make sure the children and youth that are being served feel safe, secure, and supported, while they transition through the Florida Foster Care System. *Presented by: Dolores King*

**C7** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 11

**TRANSITIONING YOUTH FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING IN ADULTHOOD**

Connections to Independence (C2i) works with youth in and aging out of the foster care system ages 15-24. Come learn how C2i incorporates five basic core components to achieve amazing outcomes: 98% of youth graduate high school and or receive their GED, 60% of youth go on to post-secondary programs, 69% have maintained employment and 89% have stable housing. Staff and youth part of the programming and services of C2i are able to achieve outcomes that are creating bright futures for this population of youth who's futures seem bleak by national statistics. There will be a youth panel in another session to learn more in depth information directly from C2i youth. *Presented by: Jessica Rogers*

**C8** (Youth)

Location: Salon 20

**BETTER TOGETHER (LEX ALLY PARTNERSHIPS, YOUTH ADULT PARTNERSHIPS)**

How should you be involved in decisions about your own case plan? What's your role in designing or improving the programs and services that profoundly impact your life? In this session, we'll define youth/adult partnerships, discover why they're important, and challenge participants to think outside the box about how youth and adults can work together! Not only does it benefit you, but could help change foster care (and maybe the world!). One of five workshops designed to equip young people with foster care experience to lead improvements in foster care and the child welfare system. Participants earn Lived Experience (LEx) Leader Certification for each completed course or the full LEx Leader Foundations series. *Presented by: FosterClub LEx (Lived Experience) Leaders*

**C9** (Youth)

Location: Salon 18

**MINDFULNESS MATTERS-HANDLING LIFE WITH A CALM AND FOCUSED MIND**

Meditation can have a profound impact on a person's mental and emotional well-being. Learning the life-skill of cultivating mindfulness can help a person navigate through challenges with resilience and a sense of calm. Meditation helps you stay present, gain clarity and inner peace. A daily meditation practice can help improve focus at school, lower stress levels, feel happy and help control emotions. *Presented by: Cathy Fairbanks*

**C10** (Youth)

Location: Salon 21

**YOUR VOICE YOUR CHOICE**

Come join us for this life size board game where your voices and choices will determine your future. In this workshop your team will work together to move through the game of Life, utilizing life skills, completing challenges and learning new resources. It's Your Voice Your Choice! *Presented by: Stacia Burlingame-Averill and Doris Edelmann*

8:00a-3:00p

Executive Ballroom Foyer  
 Registration/Information Booth Open  
*Breakfast breads and refreshments provided*

Executive Ballroom Foyer  
 Exhibit Area Open

9:00a-10:15a

General Session by Elizabeth Wynter  
 Author, Advocate, Speaker

Location: Executive Ballroom  
**FOLLOW THE LOVE: PRIORITIZING RELATIONSHIPS AND EMPOWERING YOUTH**  
 Dr. Wynter passionately advocates for a shift to a Youth Well-Being System that addresses socio-emotional needs. Underscoring the essential truth that youth already have people who love them and whom they love, highlighting that genuine permanency stems from meaningful connections, prioritizing relationships over mere legal frameworks, championing the integration of youth voices in decision-making processes, and empowering youth to advocate for services and resources that authentically meet their needs.

10:30a-12:00p

**D1** (Adult)

Location: Salon 18  
**HOUSING OPTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT/TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAMS**  
 This IL veteran will share his experiences and research on housing for youth aging out of foster care. Learn about various housing options, funding sources, common problems, supervision risk-management, dealing with landlords, measuring outcomes and more. Come with any and all questions about how to develop housing for older youth in your community. *Presented by: Mark Kroner*

**D2** (Adult)

Location: Salon 13  
**EMPOWERING THROUGH INCLUSIVE SMALL GROUPS: TAILORING SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE FOSTER YOUTH**  
 Discover the transformative power of small groups within the Empower Program, designed to provide targeted support for foster youth aged 14 to 24. This workshop delves into the creation of specialized small groups, such as the Connections Club for those with intellectual disabilities. Explore how organizations can elevate their services by implementing tailored small groups, fostering deeper connections and addressing the unique needs of diverse clients. *Presented by: Keely Ricketts, Quintyn Flemister, Daniela Santos and Joseph Burnett*

**D3** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 14  
**EVOLVING THE VILLAGE AND CONTINUUM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**  
 How do you provide a continuum of care for young people between systems of care? What barriers have you faced in transitioning aged out youth? How do you intentionally build a village and connect youth to a community where they live? We invite you to have a collaborative conversation around Lifeology's experiences and observations as well share your own journeys so that we continue to build together. *Presented by: Zaneta Alexander, Blake Owens and PK Wood*

**D4** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 15  
**SOARING INTO THE FUTURE OF CASE MANAGEMENT WITH GENERATION Z (2.0)**  
 Join us for an in-depth look at case managing transition-aged youth of Generation Z! The training will feature a Generation Z youth (Gen-Zer) with lived experience who will provide a unique point of view and help the audience explore ways to effectively engage Gen-Zers in finance, education, housing, mental health, and much more! This workshop will be highly engaging and, is suitable for youth and adult audiences of all levels. *Presented by: William Thomas, William (Harry) Day and Rowan Grae*

**D5** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 12

**MAKING RELATIONSHIPS THAT CHANGES LIVES**

This workshop features a panel of speakers who were part of a public speaking team while incarcerated as youth but were released from the institution and are currently motivational speakers nationwide. The Messengers will share their experiences on how a relationship with one caring adult impacted their lives. They will also share insights and facilitate discussions about how to make impacts on issues in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. *Presented by: Andy Broughton, Dave Brown, Gordon Brown and John Allen*

**D6** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 16

**MANAGING IDENTITY THEFT RISKS WITHIN THE FOSTER YOUTH COMMUNITY**

Identity theft is a growing concern globally; however, foster youth face unique challenges that make them particularly vulnerable to this crime. This conference workshop aims to raise awareness about identity theft in the foster youth community and bring together various stakeholders involved in supporting foster youth, including professionals working with foster care systems and foster youth themselves. *Presented by: Mona Terry*

**D7** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 11

**CONNECTING WITH CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS (PART 1 OF 2)**

Connecting With Creative Conversations offers a unique approach to fostering connections that bring together individuals passionate about having meaningful conversations. Whether you're a service provider, writer, or simply someone who appreciates the beauty of creative self-expression, this session is the perfect opportunity to engage with like-minded individuals for an unforgettable experience filled with instant inspiration and positive collaboration! *Presented by: Michael Guinn*

**D8** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 21

**YOUTH VOICES MATTER: NAVIGATING THE TRANSITION FROM FOSTER CARE TO ADULTHOOD (PART 1 OF 2)**

In this interactive session, participants will embark on a transformative journey to explore the essence of resilience in the context of foster care. Our presentation will combine storytelling, group discussions, and practical activities to deepen understanding and foster empowerment. Part one of the session will cover "Understanding Foster Care Transitions". Part two will cover "Empowering Solutions". Stick around for a surprise ending to this powerful session. *Presented by: Kay Kizer, Rosalind Rider and Shelena Tate*

**D9** (Youth)

Location: Salon 17

**MIND OVER MATTER (PART 1 OF 2)**

During this workshop, we will cover topics that include; Building the person in the mirror, Accepting the past to make the future relevant, Adapting to constant change, Identifying the unknown emotions and how to deal with them, Advocating for self and Living with pride. *Presented by: Nathaniel Barton*

**D10** (Youth)

Location: Salon 20

**FOSTERJEDI (JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND HOW IT INTERSECTS WITH THE FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE)**

In this session, participants will be introduced to the idea of family privilege which impacts young people whose families have been impacted by the child welfare system. Through identity mapping and discussion, participants will be able to self-identify some of their privilege and consider ways to hold healthy spaces for those different from them. Learn to create inclusive and supportive spaces that honor diverse experiences and backgrounds. One of five workshops designed to equip young people with foster care experience to lead improvements in foster care and the child welfare system. Participants earn Lived Experience (LEx) Leader Certification for each completed course or the full LEx Leader Foundations series. *Presented by: FosterClub LEx (Lived Experience) Leaders*

12:00p-1:30p

## Lunch (on your own)

There are several restaurants inside the Rosen Centre Hotel at varying price points. Additionally, there are numerous dining options and eateries right outside of the hotel on I-Drive.

Grab a friend and grab a bite together.

Use on I-RIDE coupon to visit Pointe Orlando for a number of dining options.

1:30p-3:00p

## E1 (Adult)

Location: Salon 13

### I-N-D-E-P-E-N-D-E-N-T, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS

This workshop was created to discuss youth independence with providers and workers. Independence is often seen as a "one size fits all" when it comes to youth, but this workshop is designed to challenge that notion. This workshop also gives suggestions to workers and providers that they can utilize to help a youth start working on developing independence if they haven't already. *Presented by: Samantha Whitley and Angel Boisclair*

## E2 (Adult)

Location: Salon 12

### LAUNCHING ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA

We need to start promoting interdependence instead of only promoting independence. None of us are truly independent, we all have people, items, apps, etc. which help us to function in this world. In this session, we will dig into interdependence and how to start promoting it at young ages as well as how to work with individuals to accept extra supports they might need in their emerging young adult years. *Presented by: Barb Clark*

## E3 (Mixed)

Location: Salon 14

### PLAN FOR A BETTER FUTURE BY BEATING THE ODDS (ENTREPRENEURSHIP DRAFT)

This "Entrepreneurship Drafting" workshop will help you narrow down your Business Idea/s, List Healthy Marketing Strategies, Complete a Business & Personal SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) Analysis and utilize Reenactment of Business Scenarios to practice skills. *Presented by: Alphonza Bush Jr.*

## E4 (Mixed)

Location: Salon 15

### THE IMPACT OF YOUTH VOICE

The workshop, facilitated by two young people with lived experience, will provide in depth discussion of the importance of youth voice in programming for those aging out of foster care. We will explain ways to teach young people how to inform agency practice and direct youth impact by sharing their story and experience. We will share about Firefly Children & Family Alliance's Peer Navigator position and how agencies can utilize this position to be a resource to both staff and youth. *Presented by: Justin Hayden and Jada Cuttriss*

## E5 (Mixed)

Location: Salon 18

### BREAKING THROUGH THE SILENT SHACKLES: EMPOWERING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE

This is a transformative workshop that brings together independent living specialists and young people with lived experience to explore perceptions inhibiting youth voices, understand authentic youth engagement principles, and highlight the importance of supportive connections with adults. *Presented by: Elizabeth Wynter and Isabel Rodriquez*



**E6** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 16

**JUST LIKE ME - CULTURAL ARTS EXPERIENCE FOR TEENAGERS IN CARE**

Just Like Me is a three-week interactive arts education camp, led by professional artists and The Performers Academy in partnership with FSS. The camp is specially designed for young people ages 14-17 in out-of-home care and directed by working artists in different fields, including dance, theater, visual and recording arts, singing/song writing and fashion design, culminating in a final production. *Presented by: Kathryn McAvoy and Maria Oxford*

**E7** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 11

**CONNECTING WITH CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS (PART 2 OF 2)**

Continuation of D7 session. *Presented by: Michael Guinn*

**E8** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 21

**YOUTH VOICES MATTER: NAVIGATING THE TRANSITION FROM FOSTER CARE TO ADULTHOOD (PART 2 OF 2)**

Continuation of D8 session. *Presented by: Kay Kizer, Rosalind Rider and Shelena Tate*

**E9** (Youth)

Location: Salon 17

**MIND OVER MATTER (PART 2 OF 2)**

Continuation of D9 session. *Presented by: Nathaniel Barton*



**E10** (Youth)

Location: Salon 20

**JOURNEY THROUGH THE SYSTEM**

How does the foster care system work? Is every young person's experience the same? Through an interactive journey and rich discussion participants learn the benefits of self-advocacy, and how to better navigate a complex foster care system so that they are more involved with their individual case plans! One of five workshops designed to equip young people with foster care experience to lead improvements in foster care and the child welfare system. Participants earn Lived Experience (LEx) Leader Certification for each completed course or the full LEx Leader Foundations series. *Presented by: FosterClub LEx (Lived Experience) Leaders*

4:30p-5:30p

**Youth Panel** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 12

**PEER TO PEER DISCUSSION WITH OPEN FORUM**

Join us for this powerful and dynamic panel! During this session, you will hear from four foster care alumni who have decided to be part of the solution to creating a child welfare system that works for us, the foster youth. Attendees will hear about each individual's unique work centered on supporting current and former foster youth through their careers in the private and public sectors and how you can be part of the solution, too!

*Facilitated by: Glenda Wright, Tyler Hunter-Boards, Natalie Clark and Mayda Berrios*



7:00p-9:30p

**Dance** (Mixed)

Location: Junior Ballroom F

*Open to all attendees. Refreshments Provided*

Join us for an evening filled with today's popular tunes. Our DJ\* will spin the top hits while you show your moves on the dance floor. Join in the fun!

*\*Terry and Natasha White of Florida Event Source LLC*

8:30a-11:00a

Information Booth Open  
 Location: Ballroom Foyer

**LUGGAGE DROP**

Location: Ballroom Foyer

For those attendees that will be checking-out of the hotel on Saturday, and leaving after the Closing Session, we will provide a luggage storage area beginning at 8:30am. All luggage will need to be retrieved by 12:00pm. Any items remaining after that time will be relocated to the hotel lost and found area.

9:00a-10:30a

**F1** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 13

**USING EVIDENCED BASED PRACTICES WITH OLDER YOUTH SERVICES FOR COLLABORATION AND SELF-CARE**

We will provide applicable guidance on the EBP models GJR in IN uses to support youth 16 to 23 y/o in our Older Youth Services' programs. We will combine techniques and tools to explain our use of Trauma Informed Care, Trust Based Relational Interventions, and Motivational Interviewing to promote youth voice, collaboration, and youth, along with employee retention and wellness. There will be some experiential learning of self-care, accidental humor, and regulation activities you can apply. *Presented by: Janna Mallay, Brandt Duggins, Cheyanne Hayes and Razyzy Floyd*

**F2** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 14

**INTERNATIONAL FOSTER CARE**

We will be discussing the differences between domestic and international foster cares along with some similarities and strategies that could be used in domestic foster homes with youth who come from different cultures. *Presented by: Lorena Luna, Monica Martinez, Pedro Licona Pinto and Joadson Devilmar*

**F3** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 15

**WHY DO THEY DO THAT: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COMPLEX TRAUMA**

Complex trauma survivors can exhibit a wide range of behaviors and symptoms which may be frightening (i.e. suicidality, aggression) and/or puzzling (i.e. desiring connection while appearing to sabotage existing relationships). Youth often do not know why this happens and without the ability to articulate their experience, adults struggle to know how to help. Using the Structural Dissociation Model, this workshop will address the "why" and provide insights for intervening effectively. *Presented by: Maegan Heller*

**F4** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 16

**TAKING CARE OF YOU IS YOUR BUSINESS**

This workshop emphasizes the importance of personal wellness and self-care as essential components of one's success and overall well-being. Maintaining physical, mental, and emotional health, stressing that self-care is not a luxury but a crucial responsibility. It advocates for proactive health management, offering tools to help individuals prioritize their well-being, overcome challenges, and unlock their true potential, ultimately leading to a more balanced life. *Presented by: Valerie Kelso*

**F5** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 17

**UNLOCKING YOUR SUPERPOWERS TOWARDS TRANSITIONAL LIVING**

Participants will, by the conclusion of this workshop, know how to Discover, Develop, and Utilize their own superpowers. Those "superpowers" are the skills and attributes they possess, that will be used to transition into independent living, excel in their current independent living, and in career planning. This will be accomplished by interactive exercises, a live demonstration of how this process works, practical take-aways along with handouts. *Presented by: Billy Boone*



**F6** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 18

**SUPPORTING OLDER FOSTER YOUTH IN THE WORKPLACE**

This workshop will demonstrate how Foster Success uses strategies of the workforce program, Works Wonders(R), to design Youth Engagement internship opportunities for older foster youth. This session will be co-led by former foster youth who are interns within the Indiana Youth Advisory Board and National Youth in Transition Database teams. Attendees will understand how to blend authentic youth engagement with workforce development techniques to provide holistic on the job training and support as they integrate youth interns into programs.

*Presented by: Diana Brownlow, Carolyn Pool, Rosibeth Martinez Casanova and Praise Ferguson*

**F7** (Mixed)

Location: Salon 21

**GET YOUR BAG- ADVOCACY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP**

Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SaySo) will share a collaborative model called TEAM-UP (Teens Engaging in Aspiring Mentorships and Uplifting Partnerships) that has been used in North Carolina to teach youth about advocacy, leadership, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. We will share lessons learned and practical tips on how to support the start of a similar model. Youth will lead icebreakers, discussion and present their business and career plans. Adults will lead the content on outcomes. *Presented by: Carmelita Coleman, Carloe Moser, Kourtney White and Shanita Dildy-Goings*

**F8** (Youth)

Location: Salon 20

**FULL CIRCLE FACILITATION**

Full-Circle Facilitation (FCF) Training introduces a peer to peer discussion - based facilitation model. This training will deepen understanding of how to apply these principles in practice. Key features of the FCF are: trauma - responsive community building, peer to peer facilitation, and discussion - based learning leveraging the experience & knowledge in the room. Enhance your facilitation skills to lead impactful discussions within your community. One of five workshops designed to equip young people with foster care experience to lead improvements in foster care and the child welfare system. Participants earn Lived Experience (LEx) Leader Certification for each completed course or the full LEx Leader Foundations series. *Presented by: FosterClub LEx (Lived Experience) Leaders*

10:30a-12:00p

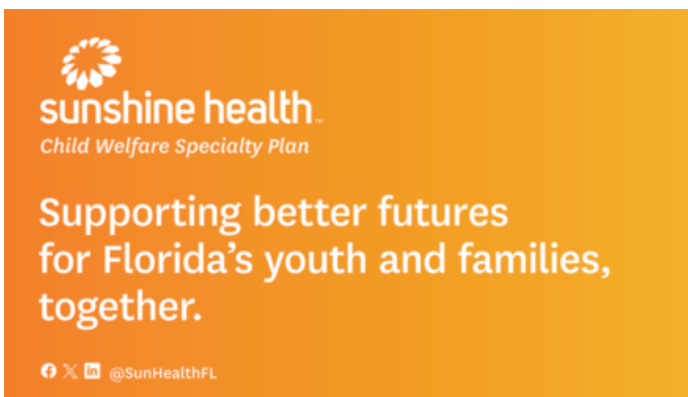
Location: Executive Ballroom

Enjoy a delicious brunch while viewing a slide show of the conference activities and see examples of the youth expressions from the week.

**Closing General Session by Christopher Salem**

**THRIVING THROUGH CONNECTION: ENHANCING FOSTER YOUTH RESILIENCE WITH STRENGTH BASED COMMUNICATION**

This presentation will dive into the transformative power of connection and communication in fostering resilience among youth in the system. By embracing a strengths-based approach to communication, we empower youth to thrive despite adversity. Participants will gain practical strategies for building meaningful connections, identifying and nurturing individual strengths, and fostering a supportive environment that promotes resilience and well-being.



**Zaneta Alexander**  
CEO  
Lifeology AZ, Inc  
Phoenix, AZ

**John Allen**  
Messenger  
The Messengers  
Columbia, SC

**Marina Anderson**  
Regional Human Trafficking Prevention  
Coordinator  
Florida Department of Children and Families  
Tallahassee, FL

**Nathaniel Barton**  
CEO/Founder  
Mission Strong LLC  
Saint Louis, MO

**Mayda Berrios**  
Wright & Hunter Consulting  
Louisville, KY

**Angel Boisclair**  
IL Youth Consultant  
Children's Aid Society  
Birmingham, AL

**Billy Boone**  
Young Adult Lifecoach  
Enterprise, FL

**Andy Broughton**  
Director  
The Messengers  
Columbia, SC

**Dave Brown**  
Messenger  
The Messengers  
Columbia, SC

**Gordon Brown**  
Messenger  
The Messengers  
Columbia, SC

**Diana Brownlow**  
Assistant Director of Youth Engagement  
Foster Success  
Indianapolis, IN

**Stacia Burlingame-Averill**  
After Care Coordinator  
Montgomery County JFS  
Dayton, OH

**Joseph Burnett**  
Advocate  
Foundation for Foster Children  
Winter Park, FL

**Alphonza Bush Jr.**  
President and CEO  
Gold Bar Status Generational Wealth Empire  
Daytona Beach, FL

**Lexie Butler**  
Alumni Advocate  
Foster Alumni Mentors  
Grand Junction, CO

**Barb Clark**  
Director of Training  
Families Rising (NACAC)  
Homasassa, FL

**Natalie Clark**  
Wright & Hunter Consulting  
Louisville, KY

**Jasney Cogua**  
Director Successful Futures Program Support  
Boys Town - Successful Futures  
Boys Town, NE

**Carmelita Coleman**  
SaySo Statewide Director  
Children's Home Society/SaySo Program  
Greensboro, NC

**Jada Cuttriss**  
Peer Navigator  
Firefly Children and Family Alliance  
Indianapolis, IN

**William (Harry) Day**  
Independent Living Specialist  
Indiana Department of Child Services  
Gary, IN

**Joadson Devilmar**  
URM Foster Youth  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of  
Galveston-Houston  
St. Jerome Emiliani Homes for Children  
Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program  
Houston, TX

**Shanita Dildy-Goings**  
SaySo Advocacy Assistant  
Children's Home Society/SaySo Program  
Greensboro, NC

**Brandt Duggins**  
GJR in Indiana Older Youth Services Supervisor  
George Junior Republic in Indiana  
Columbus, IN

**Doris Edelmann**  
Montgomery County JFS Dayton Ohio  
Dayton, OH

**Rashida Elimu**  
Director of Programs  
Promises2Kids  
San Diego, CA

**Mark-Anthony Estrada**  
Collective Energy  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

**Cathy Fairbanks**  
Independent Living Supervisor  
Lorain County Children Services  
Elyria, OH

**Praise Ferguson**  
Indiana Youth Advisory Board Leader Intern  
Foster Success  
Indianapolis, IN

**Quintyn Flemister**  
Sr. Advocate  
Foundation for Foster Children  
Winter Park, FL

**Razzy Floyd**  
Older Youth Service Representative  
George Junior Republic in Indiana  
Columbus, IN

**FosterClub LEx (Lived Experience) Leaders**  
Seaside, OR

**Courtney Glover**  
Integrated Treatment Model Implementation  
Manager  
The Children's Village  
Dobbs Ferry, NY

**Rowan Grae**  
Youth Advisory Board Member  
Indiana Department of Child Services  
Gary, IN

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Antonio Grate**  
Social & Emotional Strategist,  
Speaker, Author & Mentor  
Chicago, IL

**Laurie Green**  
Operations  
C.A.R.E.S  
Denver, CO

**Oliver Green**  
Youth Well-Being Supervisor  
Family Support Services of North Florida  
Jacksonville, FL

**Michael Guinn**  
Speaker/Actor/Advocate  
Mike Guinn Ent  
Irving, TX

**Justin Hayden**  
Peer Navigator  
Firefly Children and Family Alliance  
Indianapolis, IN

**Cheyenne Hayes**  
Older Youth Service Representative  
George Junior Republic in Indiana  
Columbus, IN

**Maegan Heller**

Victim Services  
Coordinator/Clinician  
FLITE Center  
Oviedo, FL

**Ruth Horry**

Founder  
The Coco Pauline Company/  
Co-Author: Faces of Foster Care  
Jersey City, NJ

**Tyler Hunter-Boards**

Wright & Hunter Consulting  
Louisville, KY

**Haley Kartey**

Independent Living Coordinator  
Prince George's County DSS  
Landover, MD

**Valerie Kelso**

Founder  
Purple Light Touch Foundation  
North Richland Hills, TX

**Dolores King**

CEO Master Trainer  
King Professional Development and  
Consulting LLC  
Jacksonville, FL

**Dr. Kay Kizer**

Veteran Visionary Leader  
Faces of Foster Care  
Niceville, FL

**Mark Kroner, MSW, LSW**

National Trainer/Consultant  
Cincinnati, OH

**Brianna Lennon**

Assistant  
C.A.R.E.S  
Denver, CO

**Pedro Licona Pinto**

URM Foster Youth  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of  
Galveston-Houston  
St. Jerome Emiliani Homes for  
Children  
Unaccompanied Refugee Minors  
Program  
Houston, TX

**Khalilah Louis Caines, Ph.D.,  
LCSW**

Instructor II & MSW Field Director  
Saint Leo University  
Saint Leo, FL

**Lorena Luna**

Independent Living Skills Specialist  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of  
Galveston-Houston  
St. Jerome Emiliani Homes for  
Children  
Unaccompanied Refugee Minors  
Program  
Houston, TX

**Dominique Mallard**

CEO/Founder  
C.A.R.E.S  
Denver, CO

**Janna Mallay**

GJR in Indiana Director of Older  
Youth Services & Addictions  
George Junior Republic in Indiana  
Columbus, IN

**Monica Martinez**

URM Case Manager  
Catholic Charities of the  
Archdiocese of Galveston  
Houston, TX

**Rosibeth Martinez Casanova**

NYTD Ambassador  
Foster Success  
Indianapolis, IN

**Kathryn McAvoy**

Founder  
The Performers Academy  
Jacksonville, FL

**Kathryn Meinhardt**

CEO  
Dream Acres, Inc  
Topeka, KS

**Drew Melton**

Education and Training Voucher  
Specialist  
BCFS Health and Human Services  
San Antonio, TX

**Carloe Moser**

Children's Home Society/SaySo  
Program  
Greensboro, NC

**Blake Owens**

Program Coordinator  
Lifeology AZ, Inc  
Phoenix, AZ

**Maria Oxford**

Independent Living and Youth Well  
Being Program Manager  
The Performers Academy  
Jacksonville, FL

**Antoinette Parker**

Social Worker  
Cleveland State University  
University Heights, OH

**Carolyn Pool**

Program Coordinator-Youth  
Engagement  
Foster Success  
Indianapolis, IN

**Jarrett Pratt**

Director of Student Success  
Cleveland State University  
University Heights, OH

**Kimberly Raff**

Executive Director  
Foster Alumni Mentors  
Grand Junction, CO

**Rosemary Ramsey**

Founder  
The Victory Lap  
Nashville, TN

**Keely Ricketts**

Empower Program Manager  
Foundation for Foster Children  
Winter Park, FL

**Rosalind Rider**

Youth Visionary Consultant  
Faces of Foster Care  
Niceville, FL

**Isabel Rodriquez**

Lived Experience Expert  
Tallahassee, FL

**Jessica Rogers**

Executive Director  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

**Si-Meon Russ**

Education & Employment Specialist  
Family Support Services of North  
Florida  
Jacksonville, FL

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Christopher Salem**

CEO  
Empowered Fathers in Action, Inc.  
Danbury, CT

**Daniela Santos**

Senior Advocate  
Foundation for Foster Children  
Winter Park, FL

**Shelena M. Tate MBA**

Youth Visionary Consultant  
Faces of Foster Care  
Niceville, FL

**Michelle Tauber**

Sr. Director Program Operations  
Boys Town - Successful Futures  
Boys Town, NE

**Mona Terry**

Chief Victims Officer  
Identity Theft Resource Center  
El Cajon, CA

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Honorable Erica Adeyemi**

Foster United LLC  
Fairburn, GA

**William Thomas**

Independent Living Specialist  
Indiana Department of Child  
Services  
Gary, IN

**Melissa Valenzuela**

Faces of Foster Care  
Niceville, FL

**Marie Wenzel**

Executive Director  
Hand2Paw  
Philadelphia, PA

**Kourtney White**

SaySo Program Coordinator  
Children's Home Society/SaySo  
Program  
Greensboro, NC

**Samantha Whitley**

Independent Living Team Lead  
Children's Aid Society  
Birmingham, AL

**PK Wood**

Youth Advocate  
Lifeology AZ, Inc  
Phoenix, AZ

**Glenda Wright**

Co-CEO  
Wright & Hunter Consulting  
Louisville, KY

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Elizabeth Wynter**

Author, Advocate, Speaker  
Tallahassee, FL

**Bronze Sponsor:**

**Sunshine Health**  
sunshinehealth.com  
Lauderhill, FL

**Daniel Memorial Inc /  
Daniel Memorial Institute**  
danielkids.org  
Jacksonville, FL

**Dream Acres**  
dreamacresfasdcommunity.org  
Topeka, KS

**FosterClub**  
fosterclub.com  
Seaside, OR

**GEM Art Studio**  
george-miller-cms.webflow.io  
Grand Prairie, TX

**Keys to Independence**  
keystoindependencefl.com  
Orlando, FL

**Natasha Jordan Enterprises**  
AllThingsNatashaJ.com  
Miami, FL

**Quiet Elegance**  
quietelegancedesigns.com  
Orlando, FL

**St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS)**  
sayskids.org  
St. Augustine, FL

**Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.**  
yapinc.org  
Casselberry, FL

**Authors:**  
Nathaniel Barton  
Antonio Grate  
Amnoni L. Myers  
Elizabeth Wynter

The Rosen Centre Hotel has generously offered to sponsor 2 complimentary one-day I-Ride Trolley Pass, per guest room, to use during your stay in Orlando!

**What is the I-RIDE Trolley Service?**

The I-RIDE Trolley is the exclusive, convenient and affordable transportation to hundreds of exciting destinations within the International Drive Resort Area. Visit the Official I-RIDE Trolley website at [www.iritetrolley.com](http://www.iritetrolley.com).

By using the area's exclusive and convenient I-RIDE Trolley service you can sit back and ride up and down the miles of fun that make up the International Drive Resort Area.

Discover how this wonderful, cost-saving amenity takes the parking and driving hassles out of your vacation and lets you cruise the Drive in charming style.

\* When Does the I-RIDE Trolley Operate? Daily from 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

\* Where Does the I-RIDE Trolley Go? The I-RIDE Trolleys travel exclusively throughout the International Drive Resort Area. Refer to the I-RIDE Trolley Route map for specific locations of Red Line and Green Line Stops.



Bring a sweater or jacket. Rooms can be cold!

**Plan your experience:** (for quick reference, make a note of the session number & room name that you would like to attend - first and second choice) Arrive early to secure your seat!

A session:

B session:

C session:

D session:

E session:

F session:

