As the nonprofit partner of New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), New Yorkers For Children protects, ensures, and promotes the safety and well-being of NYC’s children and families, with an emphasis on youth in foster care.

OUR WORK

Signature Programs
In order to help youth in NYC foster care and those who have aged out live independently with unprecedented success, NYFC provides direct services that focus on enrollment in college and supporting them through graduation; all while helping them gain the skills needed to enter the workforce from an empowered position. Our time-tested Signature Programs include: The Back to School Package Program, The Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship Program (Nick’s Scholars), The Charles Evans Emergency Fund, The In Care Emergency Fund, The Spirit Award, The Youth Advisory Board (YAB), and Network to Success (NTS).

Innovative Projects
NYFC collaborates with an array of key stakeholders in the child welfare community including community partners, educational institutions, ACS, and other citywide provider agencies to pilot innovative programs designed to help children, young adults, and their families involved in the NYC Child Welfare System. These initiatives include compassionate juvenile justice, educational and career-focused activities and mentoring, curricula to better support LGBTQ+ youth, and pilot programs to discover new ways to tackle the most pressing issues faced by the children and families that we serve.

In 2018, NYFC served nearly 1,000 unique foster youth between the ages 15 to 26 through direct scholarships, emergency funds, and innovative pilot programs. Here are just a few of this year’s notable outcomes:

- Distributed 687 Back to School Packages to NYC foster youth attending 135 colleges around the country.
- Provided stipends, college advising, and monthly coaching to 28 scholars attending 17 different local colleges through our Nick’s Scholars Program.
- Expanded our longstanding Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund for aged out youth attending college to include funding specifically for youth who are currently in care. We disbursed over $21,000 of aid through the new In-Care fund in less than four months, allowing 11 students to continue their educations uninterrupted.

As part of our Innovative and Pilot Programs portfolio, we

- Partnered with Youth Villages to launch the YVLifeSet model in New York City through two foster care agencies, Children’s Aid and The NY Foundling.
- Collaborated with key players in the field of child welfare to develop and implement a phone survey to help NYFC better understand the growing proportion of youth in foster care who identify as LGBTQ+, their needs, and experiences in foster care. Now in its final stages, the initiative’s goal is to develop best-practices to most effectively support this unique population.

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to share our 2018 annual report with you. This year’s theme — TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL — describes what our scholars and organization seek to achieve every day in the field of child welfare. As a partner in our work, none of this would be possible without your support and confidence. Looking back on 2018, I couldn’t be more proud of what our scholars and organization have accomplished with your help.

In 2018, NYFC served nearly 1,000 unique foster youth between the ages 15 to 26 through direct scholarships, emergency funds, and innovative pilot programs. Here are just a few of this year’s notable outcomes:

As part of our Signature Scholarship Programs portfolio, we

- Distributed 687 Back to School Packages to NYC foster youth attending 135 colleges around the country.
- Provided stipends, college advising, and monthly coaching to 28 scholars attending 17 different local colleges through our Nick’s Scholars Program.
- Expanded our longstanding Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund for aged out youth attending college to include funding specifically for youth who are currently in care. We disbursed over $21,000 of aid through the new In-Care fund in less than four months, allowing 11 students to continue their educations uninterrupted.

As part of our Direct Scholarship Programs portfolio, we

- Distributed 135 Back to School Packages to NYC foster youth attending 687 colleges around the country.
- Provided stipends, college advising, and monthly coaching to 135 scholars attending 687 different local colleges through our Nick’s Scholars Program.
- Expanded our longstanding Charles Evans Emergency Educational Fund for aged out youth attending college to include funding specifically for youth who are currently in care. We disbursed over $21,000 of aid through the new In-Care fund in less than four months, allowing 11 students to continue their educations uninterrupted.

With gratitude,

Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez
Executive Director
Across the country, youth in foster care are at a higher risk of dropping out of high school, not enrolling in or graduating from college, and experiencing high rates of unemployment and incarceration. While much work remains, New York City has developed programs designed to improve outcomes for older youth in care. The following are approximate data points from 2018 to illustrate some of the major challenges facing youth in foster care today.

**NYC Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Nationwide Stats</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8,487</strong> children in foster care in NYC in 2018.**</td>
<td><strong>442,000</strong> children in foster care in 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>649</strong> youth aged out of foster care.**</td>
<td><strong>23,000</strong> youth aged out of foster care.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment**

- **44%** of youth in foster care ages 18-20 reported having a job or paid internship.*
- Only 50% of foster kids who age out of the system will have some form of gainful employment by the age of 24.

**Housing**

- **74%** of youth in foster care reported having received help finding housing.*
- **20%** Upon reaching the age of 18, 20% of youth transitioning out of foster care will become instantly homeless.

**Education**

- **46%** percent of foster youth in high school reported needing help applying for post-secondary opportunities. 40% reported needing help applying for financial aid and/or student loans; and 39% reported needing help preparing for the SATs and other specialized tests.*
- There is less than a 3% chance for youth who have aged out of foster care to earn a college degree at any point in their life. Despite the barriers they face, however, 70% of youth report that they would like to attend college one day.

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**NYC New Yorkers For Children**

There are just under 8,500 foster youth in NYC today. Of these youth, approximately 250 manage to enroll in college every year, overcoming tremendous odds. Unlike their peers, however, this group of young people will not receive the same guidance, supports, and tools as their counterparts who did not experience foster care. NYFC Signature Programs help youth transitioning out of foster care live independently, and enroll in and graduate from college with unprecedented success. For many of these deserving young people, the resources provided by NYFC will be the only support either emotional, financial, or otherwise that they receive during their transition from foster care to independent adulthood.

The Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship Program (Nick’s Scholars) has supported current and aged out New York City foster youth throughout their undergraduate experience since 2006 – from enrollment through graduation. This comprehensive program helps students realize their educational and personal goals by providing essential financial, academic, and emotional and peer support services. Services provided include:

- Individual in-person college advisement and coaching meetings with NYFC’s Youth Academic Advisor
- Monthly stipends to cover living expenses
- Tuition assistance and stipends for textbooks
- Funding for summer or winter courses not covered by financial aid
- Various networking and community-building social events
- Referrals to personalized services such as academic tutoring, housing resources, specialized career counseling, and private mental health services

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**Why You Should Care**

Data for Nationwide Stats taken from The National Foster Youth Institute, The Children's Bureau, and The United States Census Bureau.

*Data taken from the NYC Administration for Children’s Services Youth Experience Survey 2019.

**Data provided by the NYC Administration for Children’s Services.

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**NY FC Signature Programs**

**2018 Nick'sScholars at a Glance**

- **$227,369** worth of scholarships provided
- **28** students served
- **100%** of graduates graduated on time
- **96%** of scholars re-enrolled semester to semester
The Back-to-School Package Program has provided current and aged out foster youth enrolled in college or a vocational program with the tools they need to succeed since 1999. The package consists of a brand-new laptop computer (complete with Microsoft Office Suite, Anti-Virus Protection, and a three-year warranty), two gift cards per year for educational expenses such as textbooks, and a heartfelt letter from NYFC staff wishing them good luck with their studies. To date, this program has supported more than 9,000 foster youth. While the Package is considered one of NYFC’s “lighter touch” supports – it impacts the entire population of college age youth in NYC foster care who are pursuing post-secondary education opportunities.

Emergency Funds: Charles Evans & In-Care were designed for students facing a financial emergency which would otherwise interrupt their education, such as the loss of or ineligibility to receive financial aid, loss of employment, loss of child care, family illness or death, theft of books or essential academic belongings, overdue rent or emergency housing assistance, hefty unforeseen medical bills, and other urgent situations. The Charles Evans Emergency Fund has supported young adults who have aged out of the foster care system and are enrolled in a two or four-year vocational or educational program since 2006. Due to the popularity of this program, NYFC launched The In-Care Emergency Fund in August 2018 specifically for youth who are still in the custody of ACS. Between the two funds, NYFC has distributed nearly $300,000 worth of emergency financial aid to date.

The Spirit Award is a merit-based scholarship that typically provides $20,000 worth of scholarship funding to hardworking current and aged-out NYC foster youth annually. Students can receive up to $10,000 per award.

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is NYFC’s signature non-scholarship program, and is open to youth ages 15-26. Established in 2008, the YAB is a peer leadership initiative where foster care youth come together on a monthly basis to create community, fight stigma, advocate for change, and educate the public about NYFC programming, resources pertaining to affordable housing, finding pathways to post-secondary opportunities, college scholarships, and more.

Network to Success (NTS) is an annual event held by NYFC since 2003, with the goal to expose youth ages 15-26 in the wider NYC foster care community to a variety of careers, related educational prerequisites, and skills needed to successfully enter the workforce from an empowered position. NYFC’s Board of Directors, donors, corporate partners, and other volunteers come together to share their career expertise and engage in meaningful ways with the approximate 150 attendees. The event consists of a panel of experts across various fields, a Q & A, and one-on-one activity stations where volunteers work with youth on skills such as resume writing, interviewing, personal branding, and more. NYFC also holds several smaller NTS events throughout the year for our scholars.

2018 Emergency Funds at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW FUNDS WERE USED</th>
<th>$63,477 worth of emergency support awarded to 38 students from 13 foster care agencies</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63% Tuition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8% Housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8% Other (Childcare, Transportation, Telephone, Furniture)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8% Books/Supplies &amp; Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Books/Supplies &amp; Tuition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Housing &amp; Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3% Books/Supplies &amp; Housing &amp; Other</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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2018 NYFC Scholarship Programs at a Glance

- 58% of students who transferred moved from a 2 year program to a 4 year program
- 71% of students pursuing a 2 year degree graduated on time or early
- 95% of students pursuing a 4 year degree graduated on time or early
- Nearly half of all youth in our scholarship programming are working towards a 4 year degree
- Approximately 1,000 youth are served through our Scholarship and Innovative programming annually
- 557 students participated in at least one scholarship program
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

NYFC brings community partners, the New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), and other nonprofits in the field of child welfare together to collaborate on pilot Innovative Programs to tackle some of the most pressing issues that children and their families face day-to-day. Our portfolio of Innovative Programs includes compassionate juvenile justice initiatives, educational and career-focused activities for older youth, expanded early education opportunities, and curricula to support LGBTI+ youth, among others.

Spotlight on YVLifeSet

In June 2018, NYFC launched an intensive, multi-year pilot program in New York City known as YVLifeSet, designed by Youth Villages, a leading national non-profit organization based in Memphis, Tennessee. The overarching goal of the program is to improve outcomes across the board for youth transitioning out of foster care by giving them the resources and tools they need to reach their full potential. YVLifeSet currently operates in 10 states, including Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

The YVLifeSet model provides a comprehensive array of services and tightly regulated supports to transition-age youth in foster care, which include daily living and basic life skills, employment and education coaching, financial literacy, social supports that help establish strong adult relationships, and more. This program is designed to be highly customizable, allowing the specialists to tailor the services offered to meet the exact needs of the youth. The program will serve approximately 300 youth, ages 17 to 22, over three years. Two local NYC foster care agencies – Children’s Aid and The NY Foundling – were competitively selected to recruit, enroll, and serve the program’s participants.

NYFC, ACS, and the rest of the collaborative are all thrilled to bring this evidence-based model to NYC because it was specifically designed to improve outcomes for older youth in foster care, who are often the most overlooked group. YVLifeSet has been evaluated and proven successful by MRDC, a national nonprofit organization who designs promising new interventions, evaluates existing programs using the highest research standards, and provides technical assistance to build better programs and deliver effective interventions at scale. We hope that programs like YVLifeSet will become the standard to improve outcomes for youth aging out of foster care not only in NYC, but across the country.

2018 NICK’S SCHOLARS GRADUATES

Meet our four amazing graduates from the class of 2018. We couldn’t be more proud of everytching these Nick’s Scholars’ alumni have accomplished so far. Their success is proof that when you LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD for youth in foster care, their potential is limitless!

CHRISTINA Y. John Jay Community College, Criminal Justice Management

What She’s Up to Now: Christina is a Program Specialist at a non-profit organization called iFoster, connecting transitional age foster youth between the ages of 16-24 to resources they need during their transition out of foster care.

What’s Next: Christina was accepted into Fordham University Law School, and will be starting classes in the Fall of 2020.

What She Wants You to Know: “Being a Nick’s Scholar helped me in so many ways and allowed me to really focus on my education. It relieved a lot of stress, as I was provided with the financial support and resources that students need. Whenever a problem arose that could potentially be a barrier to my education, NYFC was there to help. New Yorkers For Children allows youth to fully indulge in being a normal college student, and overcome the stigmas related to foster youth not completing college.”

SHIQUEANA P. Hunter College, Africana Studies Sequence

What She’s Up to Now: Shaqueana is a Youth Advocate working at Vibrant Emotional Health’s (formerly the Mental Health Association of New York City) Adolescent Skills Center. She remains interested in Africana Studies, and continues to explore the cultural, historical, political, economic, and spiritual experience of people of African descent throughout the world.

What She Wants You to Know: “Being in foster care helped shaped me into the woman I am today. It gave me a heart to care about others.”

JASMINE E. John Jay Community College, Criminal Justice Management

What She’s Up to Now: Jasmine is a Case Planner at Graham Windham Preventative Services.

What’s Next: Jasmine is set to begin graduate school at John Jay College in the Fall of 2020 to study International Crime and Justice.

What She Wants You to Know: “A quote that I live by is ‘Couple setbacks, bounce back and recover,’ because it summarizes all that I’ve gone through being a youth in care and a student in college. I have learned to not give up when things don’t go my way, because those setbacks have helped make me the person I am today. I am grateful to have been a part of NYFC.”

KHADIJA A. The City College of New York, Biology

What She’s Up to Now: Khadija works at Mount Sanai Health System as a Coordinator in the Peri Operative Department.

What’s Next: Khadija studied for and took the GRE in August 2019. She hopes to go on to earn her Master’s Degree in Public Health, with a concentration in Epidemiology.

What She Wants You to Know: “Make genuine connections with people who are invested in your future. Take a break when needed, but never give up on your goals – persist. And remember that asking for help is always better than suffering in silence.”
On this page you will find a map of both NYC’s five boroughs and the United States to help illustrate the reach of our Back to School Package Program (BTS). The teal dots on the NYC map indicate the location of the foster care agencies where our BTS recipients were formerly or currently are in care; and the blue dots on both maps represent the 135 unique institutions of higher education – both in NYC and across the nation – that our students attend. 94% of students who received a BTS package attended school in New York, while 6% attended school out of state.

- Post-Secondary Institutions attended by BTS Scholars
- The 27 NYC Foster Care Agencies
Spotlight on First Republic Bank

First Republic Bank has been a loyal Corporate Partner of New Yorkers For Children for the past 15 years. During that time, First Republic has supported everything from providing space for NYFC Board meetings, to hosting and volunteering at our Wrap to Rap holiday event, and teaching a Financial Coaching Workshop at our annual Network to Success event. First Republic deepened its support further in the Spring of 2019 by sponsoring a new scholarship aimed at reducing student loan debt, called The Financial Empowerment Fund, which includes a financial coaching component for recipients. We couldn’t be more excited for the fund to officially launch in the Fall of 2019. Stay tuned for more information on The Financial Empowerment Fund in next year’s annual report!

We are so thankful to First Republic and its employees for generously investing their time, funding, and resources to benefit the youth of NYC’s child welfare system. Thank you for being New Yorkers For Children!

Pictured above are just a few of the First Republic employees who volunteered at NYFC’s 15th Annual Wrap to Rap event. Over 200 New Yorkers came together including youth in foster care, agency workers, First Republic Bank volunteers, ACS staff, and NYFC staff to wrap approximately 500 gifts for youth in foster care.
Thank you for going on this journey with us

And for helping to take NYFC and the youth we serve to the next level.

Institutions
$1,000,000+ Conrad Hilton
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Youth Villages Inc
$500,000 - $999,999
NYC Administration for Children’s Services*
$300,000 - $499,999
Ira W. DeCamp Foundation*
New York Community Trust*
$100,000 - $299,999
Deutche Bank Americas
Annie E Casey Foundation
$50,000 - $74,999
Zilkha Family Fund
New York Community Trust*
$30,000 - $49,999
Foundation
$10,000 - $19,999
Foundation
$5,000 - $9,999
Foundation
$1,000 - $4,999
Foundation
$500 - $999
Foundation
$100 - $499
Foundation
$50 - $99
Foundation
$10 - $49
Foundation
$5 - $9
Foundation
$1 - $4
Foundation

Individuals

Elizabeth & Gregory D. Myers
Anne & Scott Nuttall
Andrea Scoppetta
Nicole & Leo Arnaboldi
Jeanine & Alastair Borthwick
FX & Natasha de Mallmann
Susan & Anthony Gilroy
Susan Burden & William Goldman
Vanessa & Henry Corneli
Lisa & Michael Evans
Susan & Anthony Gilroy
Laura & Henry McIey
Stefanina Waltzer & M. Grier Elasser
Amy Larocca & Will Frears
Brent & Laura Nicklas
Scott & Jennifer Frank
Grant Frankel
Jennifer & Greg Geiling
Grant Frankel

We couldn’t do this work without you.
DON'T JUST BE A NEW YORKER.
BE A NEW YORKER FOR CHILDREN.

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