

You Gotta Believe #NobodyAgesOut



Because It's Never Too Late For Family

December 2015



Founded in 1995, YGB was created to fill New York City's need for an agency dedicated to permanency for the oldest youth in the foster care system.

We specialize in older teens (16 to 21) who are closest to aging out of care alone.

While placed into foster care through no fault of their own, numerous studies have shown that youth who age out of the system face a grim future from lack of education and gainful employment, to higher-than-average rates of early pregnancy, incarceration, poor health, and homelessness.

Finding each child a family is the most effective way to prevent these dire outcomes.

You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption & Permanency Movement, Inc. (YGB)

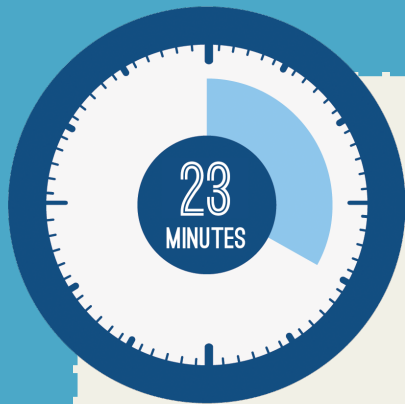
Foster Care: A Broken Promise



In 2013 there were **3.5 million referrals** to Child Protective Services of child abuse and neglect involving **6.4 million children**. CPS ultimately substantiated claims involving **1.3 million children** leading to **239,000 children** placed into foster care.



With **265,000 children** placed into foster care in 2014, there are **415,000 children** in the system at any given moment.



They were promised a family and a home – yet we fail to deliver on that promise for **23,000 youth** who ‘age out’ of the foster care system every year.

That’s one youth aging out every 23 minutes.

And there are thousands more teens in the aging out pipeline without committed family support.



Lack of Education & Unemployment

The longer children are in care, the further behind they fall academically with each placement and school disruption.



56%

Of youth in care change schools when entering foster care.

40%

of youth in care experience a delay in enrolling in school while in care

65%

of youth who have aged out experience 7 or more school moves

And by the time they age out – just 58% have a high school diploma by age 19 and less than 3% receive a college degree by age 26

Lack of education leads to difficulty finding gainful employment.

by age 24:

52%

are unemployed – double that of their non-foster care peers

42%

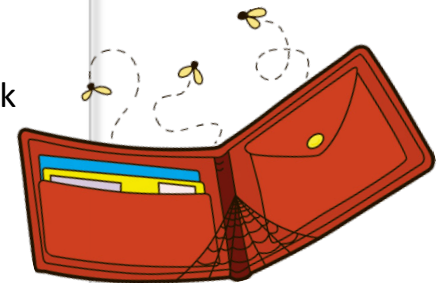
are unable to find full time work

85%

Fall below the poverty line

\$8,000

Is the median income per year



Sources: National Foster Care Review Coalition. (2009). *Meeting the Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care: A National Perspective*; Advocates for Children of New York, Inc. (2000). *Educational Neglect: The Delivery of Educational Services To Children In New York City's Foster Care System*; Pecora P.J., et al., (2005). *Improving Family Foster Care: Findings from the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study*; Courtney, M.E., et al., (2011). *Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth*. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Hardship & Homelessness

Despite a focus on independent living programs, many youth who age out of care are ill-prepared for even basic day-to-day living.

By the age of 24, youth who age out face significantly more economic struggles than their non-foster care peers:



3 times

more likely to not have a bank account



4 times

more likely to have utilities shut off

2 times

more likely to lack funds for rent



12 times

more likely to be evicted



And sometimes the struggle becomes too great....

4 in 10



are homeless or 'couch surf' at some point by age 24

often frequently and for long periods

38% are homeless for 30 days or longer

60% couch surfed more than once



Poor Health & Early Parenthood

Youth who age out suffer more health issues and early, unplanned pregnancy. Yet they lack insurance and do not seek the services they need.



5 times
more likely to suffer
from substance abuse

1 in 4

suffer from PTSD,
double that of US
military veterans



1.6 times
more likely to
struggle with alcohol
dependence

50%



lack health insurance by
age 21 compared to 24% of
their non-foster care peers.
And those with coverage
have Medicaid vs. parental
or employer coverage

2 times

more likely to
experience a major
depressive episode



71%

Have been pregnant by age 21, double
that of their non-foster care peers

74%

forego medical
care due to cost



70% did not want to
become pregnant

74% were not using
birth control

Continued Dependence

Youth who age out of care many times find themselves continuing to depend on or be involved with government services and agencies.

By Age 26

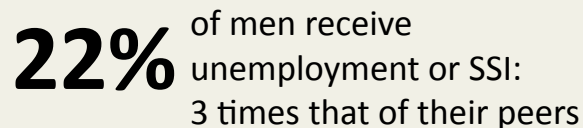
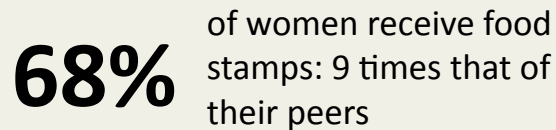
Youth who age out are disproportionately involved with the justice system



7 times that of their non-foster care peers

5 times

more likely to receive some type of government assistance than their non-foster care peers



6 times

more likely to have a child living with someone else

often the cycle continues

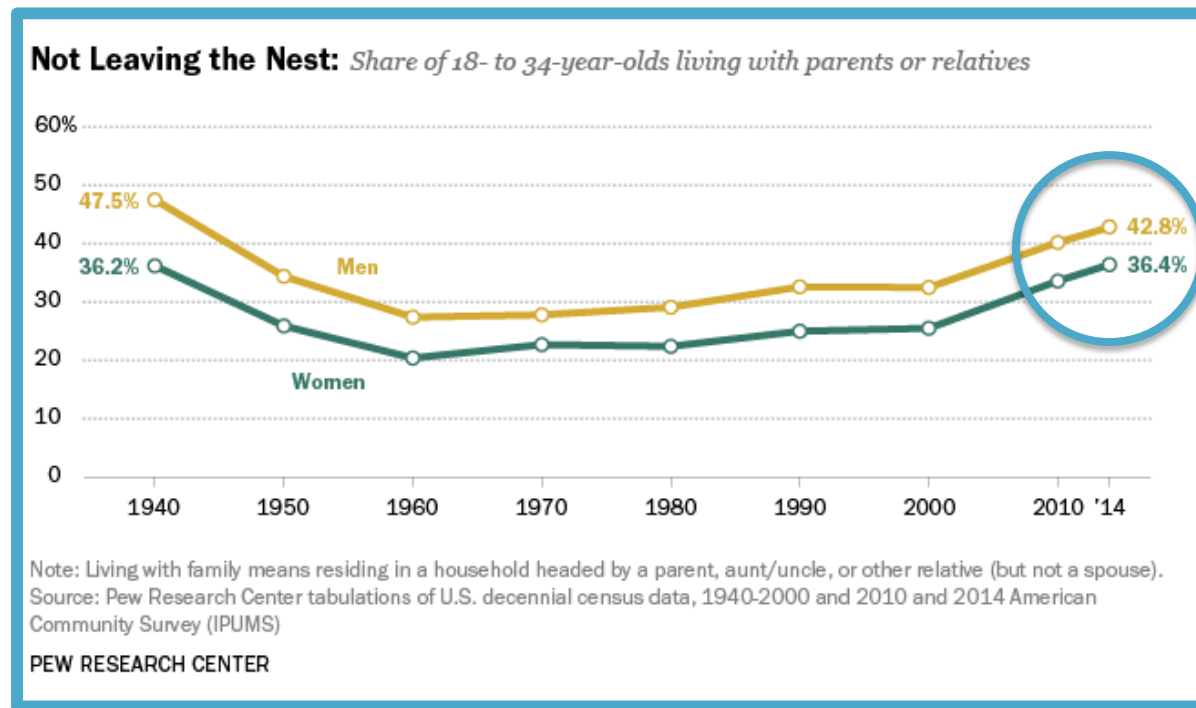
28%

of the time, that child has been placed into foster care



Returning to the Nest

Youth who age out are expected to thrive without family at age 18 or 21, yet many somehow don't expect that of their own children.



In fact the opposite is true for the majority of young adults today.

Returning to near record highs not seen since WWII:

⦿ **43%** of M18-34

⦿ **36%** of W18-34

....still live with family!

Family Is The Answer

In the past decade, the estimated cost of the **300,000+ youth** who have aged out of care in the U.S. tops a staggering **\$225 billion** – and the moral cost is immeasurable.



To counter this outcome, YGB focuses on recruiting unconditionally committed, loving permanent families for youth in foster care.

Youth who are adopted from foster care* are:

- ⦿ **23%** more likely to finish high school
- ⦿ **50%** more likely to attend college/post-secondary
- ⦿ **24%** less likely to be unemployed
- ⦿ **22%** more likely to be working as a young adult
- ⦿ **20%** less likely to become teen parents
- ⦿ **15%** less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol
- ⦿ **200%** more likely to receive mental health services
- ⦿ **50%** less likely to be arrested
- ⦿ **32%** less likely to be incarcerated

***vs. those who remain in care**

Source: Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, (2013) *The Business Case for Investing In Youth Aging Out of Foster Care* ; Hansen M.E., (2006) *The Value of Adoption*, American University.

Our Vision



- ⦿ Connect every child leaving foster care to an unconditionally committed, loving and permanent family.
- ⦿ Make permanency solutions the primary strategy used to meet the needs of foster youth before they age out alone.



We strive for the day when ***Nobody Ages Out*** because we know that the power of unconditional commitment of a loving family transforms young people's prospects of living happy, healthy and productive lives.

We know it is never too late for family

Services



YGB trains trainers and offers direct service to find **permanent** families for foster youth:

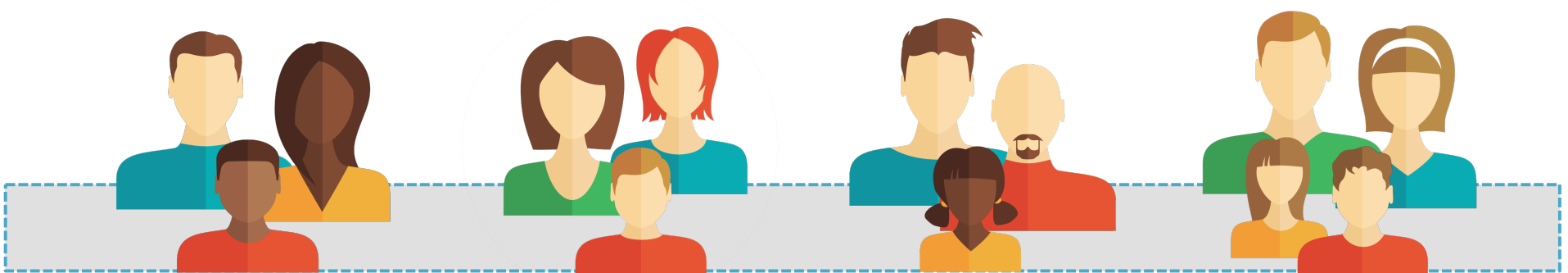
- ⦿ **Recruit**, train and certify foster/adoptive **parents** with permanent mindsets
- ⦿ **Train** agencies to **connect** and place **foster youth** with permanent **families**
- ⦿ Provide crucial **ongoing support services** pre- and post-placement
- ⦿ Conduct **trainings for partner organizations** to improve recruitment and permanency outcomes
- ⦿ **Develop** youth leadership presence in regional/national advocacy to position teen permanency as an achievable and **proven solution** for foster youth facing the prospect of aging out
- ⦿ **Utilize media** and videos to conduct **public education**

Permanency is the Solution



Connection to unconditionally committed, permanent families **enables access to:**

- ✓ Safe and stable housing
- ✓ Educational opportunities, with support to complete programs
- ✓ Guidance and support, resulting in decreased involvement with the criminal justice system
- ✓ Assistance in obtaining employment and pursuing careers
- ✓ Health insurance and health services
- ✓ And much more...including modeling of healthy behavior, relationships, mentoring, etc.



NYC has historically underperformed with permanency



- ⦿ It takes longer to be adopted in NYC than in the rest of NYS and every other state in the nation.
- ⦿ Children who were adopted in NYC in 2013 spent a median of 55.8 months—over 4.5 years—in foster care prior to adoption.
- ⦿ There are currently 1,300 youth awaiting adoption and another 1,600+ youth with a permanency plan of APPLA and set to ‘age out’ to themselves.
- ⦿ 769 NYC youth ‘aged out’ to APPLA in 2014 – essentially launched into the world without the bare minimum of emotional, financial or concrete supports:
 - Only 38% could name a single permanent connection to a caring adult;
 - Only 24% had a high school diploma or GED;
 - Only 23% had verifiable income
 - 21% were already parents
 - Less than half received housing assistance

YGB: PATH TO PERMANENCY



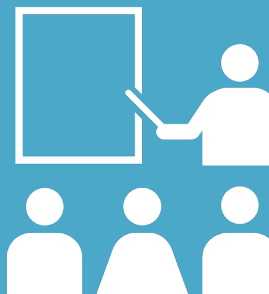
500 

Over the past 20 years, YGB has worked to connect more than **500 youth with permanent parents.**



More than **133 youth** have been placed or matched with families recruited or trained by YGB in the past two years.

Every year, YGB works with more than **80 young people** to connect them to permanent families.



YGB has provided the 10-week permanency-focused MAPP training more than **130 times** over four years to more than **2,000 individuals.**

As many as **200 youth** have been welcomed into these additional agency-licensed homes.

Proven Success



You Gotta Believe, in partnership with NYC Administration of Children's services received a Federally funded grant leading to the following results:

Among other allegations, the lawsuit raises the following statistics:

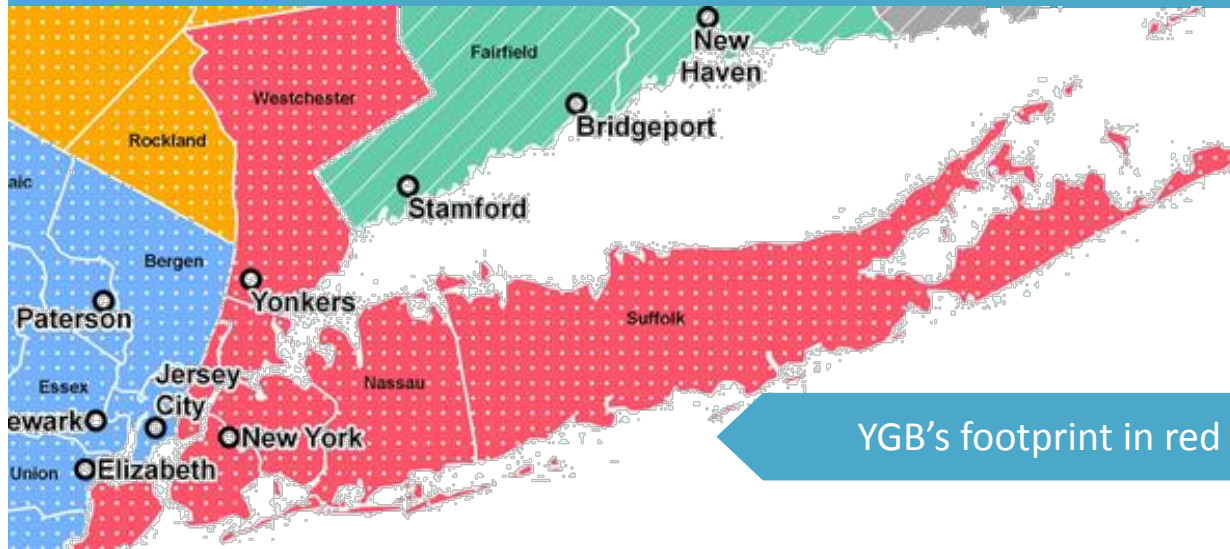
- ⦿ 199 teens were referred to the project during the 4 year funding period
- ⦿ The majority were living in institutional settings – the highest level of foster care
 - 76% from Residential Treatment Facilities
 - 19% from Group Homes
- ⦿ Teens had spent average of 7.4 years in care

Results:

- ⦿ 98 of the 199 teens were permanently placed into homes – almost 50%!

*Children & Youth Services Review 2009

YGB'S New York Presence



YGB's footprint in red

New York City (5 Boroughs)

We have the cooperation and partnership of many of the **26 NYC foster care agencies** and are committed assisting with recruitment of permanent parents.

Long Island

YGB also has a footprint in **Long Island**. Nassau County in particular has been eager to partner with YGB in addressing the needs of their older youth.

Westchester (Hudson Valley)

We are building new partnership with **Westchester County** and will be providing permanency training.

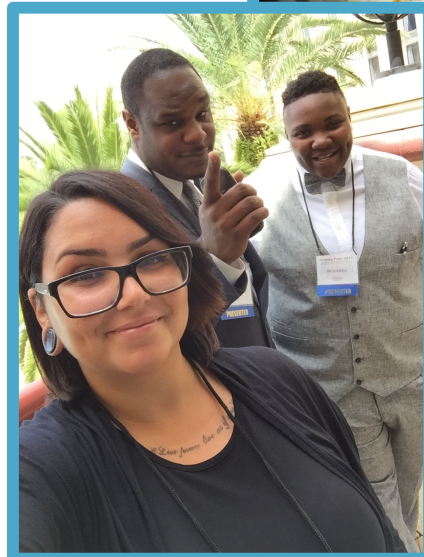
Nobody Ages Out Movement (NAO)



NAO is an advocacy campaign to focus the child welfare system, lawmakers, youth, and families on permanency solutions for older kids in foster care.

We are building a groundswell of public support for foster youth who are systematically being “aged out.”

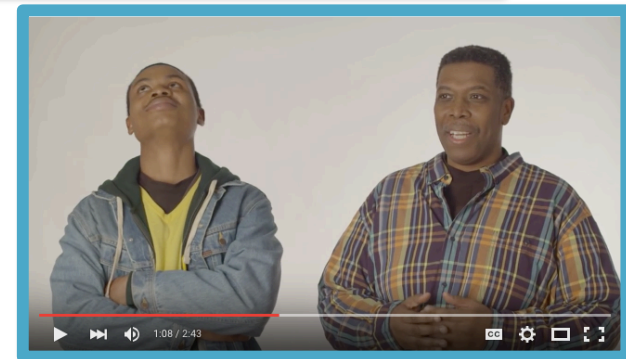
As part of this effort, YGB has developed the **NAO Youth Movement**, through which former foster youth share their stories and advocate for permanency. YGB embeds the NAO Advocate voice in **EVERYTHING** we do.



Sharing Stories



YGB families' have moving personal adoption stories and testimonials.



Voices for the Voiceless



Sirius Radio Host, Seth Rudetsky & James Wesley created a Broadway event that generated \$500,000. The celebrity- studded event featured Tina Fey, Jane Krakowski, Darren Criss, Tituss Burgess, Megan Hilty, Caroline Rhea and many more.

- YGB garnered local and national attention in Huffington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Gotham Magazine, Variety and more.
- YGB has received inquiries from prospective parents and potential as a result of the event.
- YGB also established new relationships with high-profile personalities, including Seth Rudetsky, Vanessa Williams, Rachel Crow, Charlene Tilton, Megan Hilty, and Darren Criss, who have substantial Twitter and Facebook followings.



VOICES FOR THE VOICELESS Event Garnered National Attention for Foster Kids!



An extraordinary show that
entertained, inspired, and touched

....and generated national
media coverage for the
event and issue!



- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Wall Street Journal](#)
- [Boston Herald](#)
- [Daily Mail.com](#)
- [ET Online](#)
- [US Magazine](#)
- [Broadway World](#)
- [People Magazine](#)
- [People.com](#)
- [Gotham Magazine](#)
- [Playbill.com](#)
- [NBC New York](#)
- [Variety](#)

Capturing Hearts Worldwide



Humans of New York (HoNY) featured a YGB family in October 2015. The Royal family's story was widely shared and grew our Facebook presence by more than 9,000 people in a day and drove over 4,000 visitors to our site from all over the United States and world!



"I found myself in my forties and I'd never had children. And one night I was watching a show on television, and it was talking about how many older children are in foster care, and I decided it was something I should do. I work now as a counselor who advises families considering older adoptions. So many foster children get returned to the system when they hit their teenage years because the parents have unrealistic expectations. People expect foster children to be grateful and well behaved and respectful. But many of these children have been traumatized, abandoned, and hurt. They are going to push your buttons just like any other teenager, and they are going to force you to deal with your own issues. It requires a lot of patience to give them the time, support, and space to process their life."



"I met Mom when I was 14. I needed a new home so the agency set up a meeting. I'd been in many foster homes at that point. The caseworker knew that I was very shy, so she encouraged me to speak up during the meeting. But I didn't know what to say. I'd been abused so much at that point, the only thing I could think to ask was: 'Are you good?'"



***Together these posts on HoNY netted
1.1 million likes, 23,000 comments and 40,000 shares!***

Photo Credit: Humans of New York

Target Outcomes



YGB Projected Outcomes for 2016 through 2017 include:

- 1** **Connecting families through training agencies:** Connect at least 80 foster youth with forever families and train at least 5 partner agencies to make successful connections
- 2** **Recruiting and training parents:** Recruit and train 600 prospective parents through our permanency-focused GPSII/MAPP Pre-Certification Training Program
- 3** **Keeping new families together:** Provide crucial, comprehensive ongoing support for 80 recently matched foster youth to help them negotiate the transition to becoming a cohesive family unit
- 4** **Conducting advocacy to strengthen permanency outcomes:** Utilize the NAO team to build a network of youth, families, child welfare staff & public officials focused on permanency for ALL foster youth—both locally and nationally
- 5** **Raising Awareness:** Utilize media, videos, events, and articles to educate child welfare workers and the public on older youth adoption.

Contact Us



For More Information about our growing Nobody Ages Out Movement:

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