



## national foster care coalition

### **PROGRAM PRESENTERS INFORMATION**

#### **Jennifer Miller**

*ChildFocus Partners*, is a national consulting firm that brings together innovative people, programs and policies to help non-profit organizations, foundations, and government agencies support America's children and families. Building on the strengths and insights of our clients, we listen to what they need and meet with the children and families they serve. ChildFocus believes strongly in partnerships, working across "silos," and honoring the contributions of others. We refuse to be discouraged by cynicism, limited resources or turf wars. We strive to bring creativity, humor and optimism to our work and believe, like Garrison Keillor, that "even in a time of elephantine vanity and greed, one never has to look far to see the campfires of gentle people."

<http://childfocuspartners.com/who-we-are/team>

**Youth and Credit: Protecting the Credit of Youth in Foster Care** (new report available at:)

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Topics/Child%20Welfare%20Permanence/Other/YouthandCredit/YouthandCredit.pdf>

#### **Jim Shaw**

*CASA Volunteer* (9 years), Vice President, ICO Commercial Real Estate, Texas, Board Member, Child Advocates of Ft. Bend, TX, He is affiliated with National Casa The mission of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, together with its state and local members, is to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that every abused or neglected child can be safe, establish permanence and have the opportunity to thrive. The National CASA Association is a network of 933 programs that are recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings CASA program.

<http://www.casaforchildren.org>

#### **Sara Johnson**

*Baltimore CASH Campaign* was formed in the fall of 2001 to employ strategies to help working families in Baltimore maximize their financial opportunities and resources. The campaign is the work of a coalition that includes foundations, nonprofits, community-based organizations, workforce development agencies, Baltimore City government, the Internal Revenue Service, and hundreds of volunteers. The campaign focuses on "making work pay" by leveraging the tax code as a gateway to financial services for working families. The Baltimore CASH Campaign strives to provide working families access to the tools and services needed to maximize their earning dollars. The Campaign doesn't end with tax preparation. Working with financial institutions and community development organizations, the Campaign links families and individuals to asset building resources.

<http://www.baltimorecashcampaign.org>

### **Carolyn Schulte**

*Credit Builders Alliance* is a nonprofit organization creating innovative solutions to help non-traditional financial and asset building institutions serving low and moderate income individuals build client credit and financial access in order to grow their businesses and/or personal assets.

<https://www.creditbuildersalliance.org>

***Accessing Credit Reports for Foster Youth*** (new report available at:)

[https://www.creditbuildersalliance.org/files/Accessing\\_Credit\\_Reports\\_for\\_Foster\\_Youth - A Reference Guide for Child Welfare Agencies.pdf](https://www.creditbuildersalliance.org/files/Accessing_Credit_Reports_for_Foster_Youth_-_A_Reference_Guide_for_Child_Welfare_Agencies.pdf)

### **Howard Davidson**

*ABA Center on Children and the Law*, in 1978 the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division created the ABA Center on Children and the Law. It started as a small legal resource center focusing exclusively on child abuse and neglect issues. The Center improves children's lives through advances in law, justice, knowledge, practice and public policy.

[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child\\_law/child\\_law.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/child_law.html)

### **Jetaine Hart**

*DC Child and Family Services Agency, Office of Youth Empowerment*. Of the 2,000 children in District foster care, fully 59 percent are older youth and young adults, ages 12 to 21. CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) provides a host of programs and growth experiences for District teens and young adults in foster care. In partnership with social workers, foster caregivers, and the community, OYE's goals are to teach, train, and guide these young people—and ultimately to help each one begin to recognize and develop his/her unique potential.

<http://dc.gov/DC/CFSA/For+Youth/Youth+Empowerment>

### **National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD)**

NRCYD, The University of Oklahoma, National Resource Center for Youth Development's (NRCYD) is a service of the Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau and a member of the TTA Network. NRCYD's overall goal is to build the capacity of States and Tribes to provide high quality services to their youth in out of home placements, former foster youth and other youth in at-risk situations.

<http://www.nrcyd.ou.edu>

### **FosterClub**

FosterClub helps open the way for these young people to transform their lives and provides a forum to raise their voice. Our members engage with peers and regain control over their situation through support, skill building, and healing opportunities. FosterClub's young leaders achieve impressive levels of success as they demonstrate remarkable resilience. Here they have real life opportunities to become true heroes as they reach back to improve the foster care system for their younger peers.

FosterClub is the national network for young people in foster care.

<http://www.fosterclub.com/>

## **Jim Casey Youth Initiative**

The mission of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative is to ensure that young people—primarily those between ages 14 and 25—make successful transitions from foster care to adulthood. We do this by working nationally, in states, and locally to improve policies and practices, promote youth engagement, apply evaluation and research, and create community partnerships. Our work creates opportunities for young people to achieve positive outcomes in permanence, education, employment, housing, health, financial capability, and social capital.

On May 6, 2013, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative [launched \*Success Beyond 18\*](#), a national campaign to create a better path for young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Based upon research and our experience working with young people across the country, [\*Success Beyond 18\*](#) guides states in their efforts to extend foster care services beyond age 18, and to do it right—ensuring that young people in foster care are provided every chance for success in work, school, and family life.

[\*Enduring Assets\*](#), summarizes the impact of asset matching and financial education programs [in the lives of young people](#) aging out of foster care. The study focuses on the qualitative impact of the Opportunity Passport™ program and highlights various ways in which this program helped cultivate financial skills among young people in foster care.

Additional data and information about the youth savings and asset building efforts, including community examples, is here: <http://jimcaseyyouth.org/savings-and-asset-building>.

## **Congressional Coalition on Adoption Initiative**

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is a non-profit organization that works to raise awareness about the needs of children without families and to remove policy barriers that hinder children from knowing the love and support a family provides. CCAI is unique in that each of our programs brings together policymakers and individuals with direct foster care or adoption experience. We have found that when policymakers hear direct experiences of those affected by orphan and child welfare policy, they become engaged in this issue and work to bring about legislative improvements in an effort to ensure each child has their right to a family realized.

<http://www.ccainstitute.org/>