

Reshaping Futures. Launching Careers.

Health | Arts | Skills | Career

Future:Youth™

EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF
 **CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION**
Providing opportunity and hope for at-risk youth.

Table of Contents

Case For Support	2
Statistics	3
Community Need	4
The Solution	5
Our Plans	6-9
Our Program	10
Project Timeline	11



Providing opportunity and hope for at-risk youth.

VULNERABLE

Teens in foster care are among the most vulnerable of populations in the country.

Each year in Florida, thousands of teenagers enter the foster care system because they were living in unsupervised, high-risk environments, or they were victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment. They'll have to make their own way in life because the odds of a teen being fostered or adopted are very slim.

When you consider the behavioral challenges brought on by the emotional, physical, sexual, or psychological trauma that many have suffered at the hands of people that were supposed to love and protect them, their odds drop even more. Trauma can create a toxic state of mind, body and soul, and over time, can erode their mental and physical health. For many, their well-being will shatter along with any hope of living a happy, healthy, or stable life.

That's when they become vulnerable to negative outcomes. Many will resort to a life on the streets and get lured into the sex trade or join gangs to fit in and feel a sense of family and belonging. Many will turn to stealing or committing crimes to survive, drink alcohol, take drugs or cause harm to themselves and others to cope with their pain, trauma, and PTSD.

We, as a community can't let this happen. While they may look like teens on the outside, they're still children at heart who haven't been loved, properly reared, or shown the way to go. They've been robbed of their youth and are left with no alternative but to do whatever it takes to survive. They desperately need love, healing, education, direction, and a plan.

BiG Children's Foundation is driven to prevent these outcomes.

We're on a mission to deliver services to teens in foster care that will help them heal; and education, skills and professional development that will help them live happy, self-sufficient, and successful lives. We're determined to change their life trajectory and reshape their futures.





TRAGIC STATISTICS

80%

Will suffer serious medical conditions and compromised health due to trauma and abuse.

60%

Will resort to crime, theft and violence, be placed under arrest and/or become incarcerated.

45%

Will become homeless within 18 months of leaving the system and become targets for sex trafficking and gang recruitment.

2%

Will go to post secondary school or college.

\$ 8 BIL

\$8 Billion dollars will be spent this year in Florida for correctional services such as juvenile justice, incarceration, parole, etc. and will include teens from foster care.



Wouldn't it make more sense, and be more compassionate to invest in the teens preemptively, and set them up for success, rather than waiting for a negative outcome and to then spend billions of dollars trying to fix it?

Foster teens need:

- healing, laughter, and love
- solid relationships and stability
- a productive outlet
- life skills, education, and resources
- professional development and opportunities





YOU can be part of the solution that changes the statistics!



BiG Children’s Foundation, Inc. was founded in 2015 and offered opportunities via events for hands-on leadership, community service hours, and volunteerism to teens aging-out of foster care. Soon thereafter, our mission evolved into a more intentional approach as we began to learn of the poor health and well-being of teens in the system, as well as the grim statistics of those turning 18 and aging-out due to the lack of formal self-sufficiency training, education, skills, and professional development to ensure their success.

We also learned that waiting until after they emancipated to work with them, was too late. For genuine impact and change to take place, we needed time on our side. We needed collaborative-minded community partners who would provide for their physical needs such as food, shelter, and clothing while we could simultaneously focus on other essential areas. So, we developed a curriculum-driven program for teens age 14+ that would improve overall health, teach self-sufficiency skills, and provide the academic education, skills and professional development they’d need to succeed when they eventually aged-out. We forged relationships with community partners and agencies and began offering a sampling of services on a modified and intermittent basis on their sites.

Since then, and thus far, we’ve made hundreds of touchpoints with foster youth with our outreach services, summer camps, community initiatives, and community service. We love to see the youth engage and smile when we’re on their site, however, they need so much more to achieve the life-changing outcomes that are so desperately needed.

For the youth to realize authentic transformation, a permanent space designated just for them is essential. One that is outfitted with the specific tools and equipment needed for our program. A refuge where they feel welcome and safe, and where our teachers and mentors can bond with them and build meaningful relationships. A facility that is calm and conducive to learning, where we can deliver our program consistently and authentically, in collaboration with our community partners to ensure progress is being made.

That place is our new boutique Education Center!





THE SOLUTION

100+
TEENS WILL BE
SERVED IN THIS
CENTER
ANNUALLY

500+
HOURS OF
SPECIALIZED
EDUCATION &
TRAINING

100+
EDUCATIONAL
MODULES
WILL BE
UTILIZED

10,000+
UNITS OF
SERVICE WILL BE
DELIVERED!

The following pages contain our plans to build-out a boutique-sized Education Center specific to teens in foster care. This includes the remodeling and re-purposing of a residential structure in Oakland Park, Florida, which will accommodate over 100 youth every year. This facility will enable us to have a laser-focused, intentional approach with the teens several times a week on a consistent, long-term basis, year-round—exactly what is needed for real transformation. It will also enable us to host several summer programs, which is key to onboarding new students each year.

That means **100+ foster teens every year** will have an opportunity to change their life trajectory and will no longer have to resort to desperate measures to survive. Instead, they'll receive **500+ hours of specialized education and training** from professionals, teachers, specialists, coaches, and mentors, utilizing **100+ educational modules** in the areas of Health, Nutrition, Self-Sufficiency, Arts, Academics, Professional Development, Trades, and Career. **Over 10,000 Units of Service will be delivered in this facility annually!**

Our overall campaign budget is available separately as it is fluid due to price fluctuations, and the generosity of folks just like who have been stepping up to invest. They've decided they want to help and be part of a legacy project that will change lives. We'd like to invite you to join them, and partner with us and help provide some of the financial support needed to get the job done. We hope that you'll take a moment and consider the real difference you can make for these teens both now and for many years to come.

Imagine the healing that will take place in their hearts and spirits. Imagine the relief they'll feel in their minds when they know that someone has their back. Imagine the renewed sense of hope they'll experience when their life legitimately changes direction. When teens are healthy and feel loved—and have an opportunity to be trained and educated—lives will be transformed, and futures will be radically reshaped.

So, what do you think? Will you join the others and help make the Education Center a reality for foster teens in South Florida and give them a fighting chance?



Future:Youth™

EDUCATION CENTER

Health | Arts | Skills | Career
Reshaping Futures. Launching Careers.

100+
TEENS WILL BE
SERVED **10,000**
UNITS OF SERVICE
ANNUALLY!



Current structure, Oakland Park, Florida.

Our MISSION

To improve the quality of life of teens in foster care and set them on a path to success by restoring their health, training them to be self sufficient, and providing the education, skills, and professional development they need to succeed.

Our VISION

To prevent negative outcomes and provide an opportunity for foster teens everywhere to enjoy a radically reshaped future.

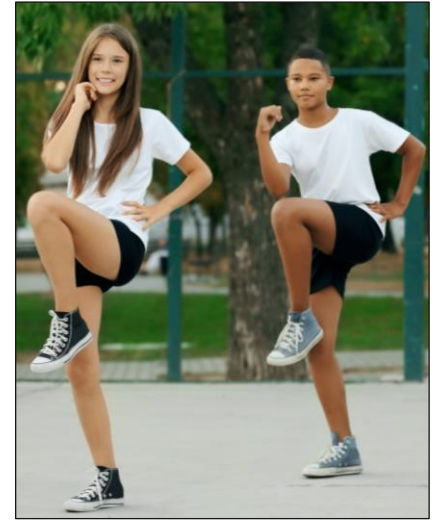


HEALTH and NATURE GARDEN

Fitness | Training | Quiet Time | Meditation | Natural Environment



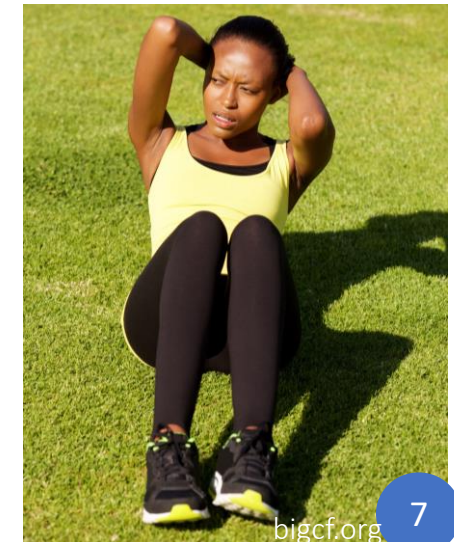
100+
EDUCATIONAL
MODULES
WILL BE
UTILIZED



HEALTH and NATURE GARDEN

It has long been known that physical activity promotes overall good health, such as preventing heart disease, aiding in weight loss, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, bolstering immune system, and so much more. But did you know that it is also essential for good mental health as well, such as relieving emotional pain, anxiety and stress, improving self-esteem and increasing a sense of well-being. In fact, youth who engage in regular physical activity and sports are much less likely to smoke, use drugs and alcohol, or involve themselves with criminal activity. Located behind a privacy wall, this peaceful nature garden is a perfect place for the teens to get some fresh air as they workout, stretch or have a quiet place to talk with their mentor, meditate, pray, or connect with their spirit.

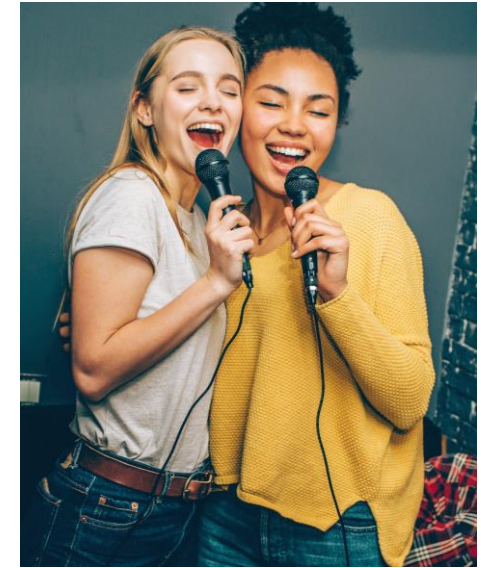
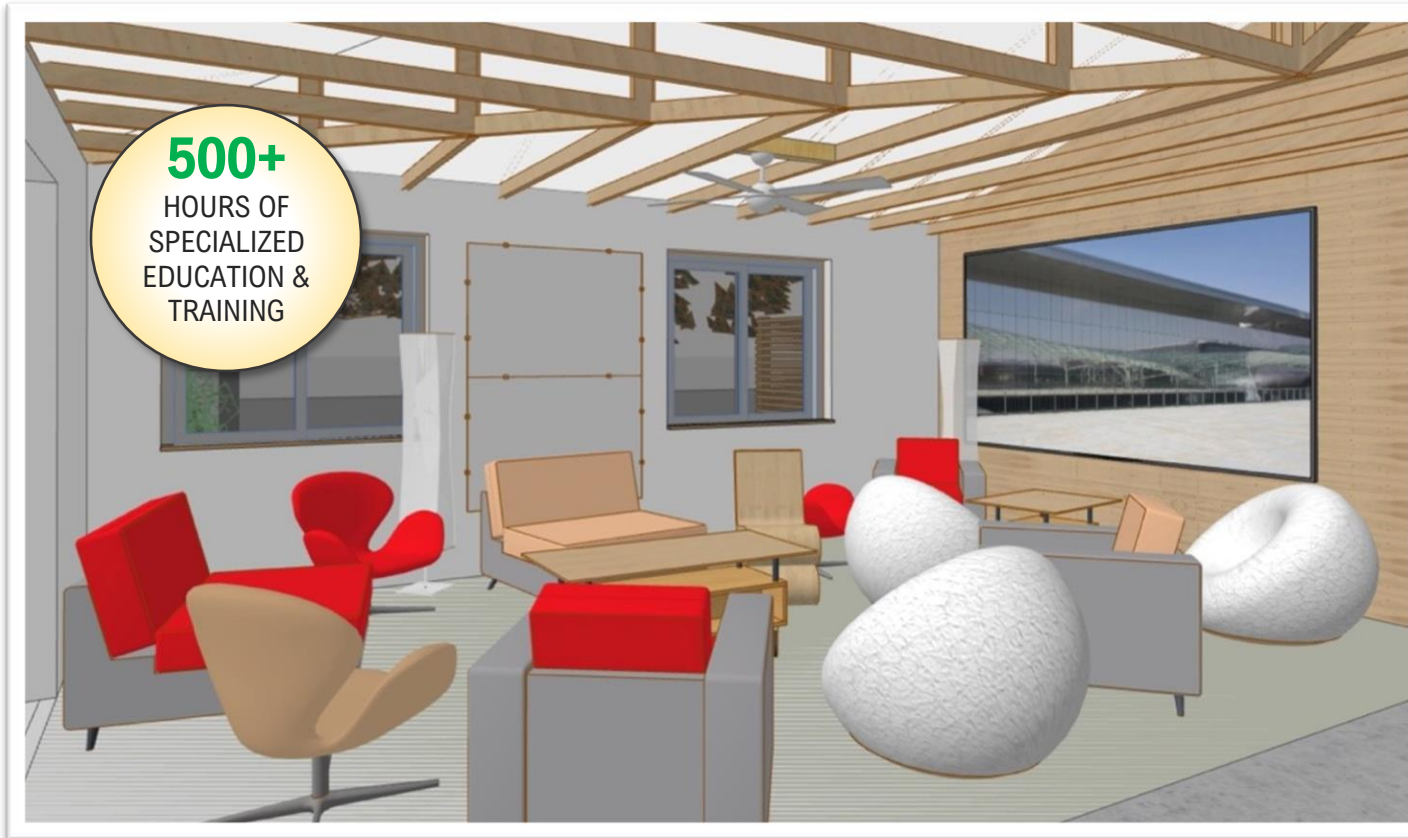
Releasing their Past. Finding their Peace.





ARTSPACE and LEARNING LOUNGE

Music | Singing | Acting | Socials | Group Mentoring | Trainings



ARTSPACE and LEARNING LOUNGE

This space is designed for healing and learning through creativity. Arts such as singing, acting, playing instruments, writing poems or performing spoken word, are effective outlets to express emotions. These tools promote healing by lowering blood pressure, and relieving anxiety and stress. They also help to build self confidence and leadership skills. Additionally, the chosen color scheme and furnishings are therapeutic in design, which makes a perfect environment for small group mentoring and counseling. Equipped with a glass dry erase board and a large format LED computer screen, this space will be ideal for trainings and workshops, as well as a fun space for social activities, board games, movies and popcorn.

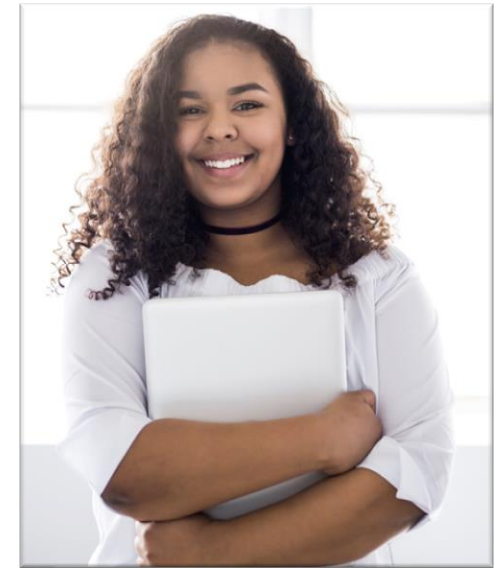
Healing their Pain. Creating their Present.





MULTI-PURPOSE EDUCATION SPACE

Health | Nutrition | Academics | Trade-Professional Skills | Career



MULTI-PURPOSE EDUCATION SPACE

This contemporary space will be used in various ways throughout our program, including teaching the teens self-sufficiency skills, including learning to cook healthy snacks and meals, household and financial management, budgeting and more. Likewise, the space will also be used for academic education, trade and professional skills development, and a place for guest speakers and professionals to conduct workshops and hands-on training. In addition to a large movable screen and modern technology, each of the 14 stations will be equipped with a power source, internet access, laptop, school supplies, cookware, utensils, and more so that every teen will have exactly what they need to succeed in the program.

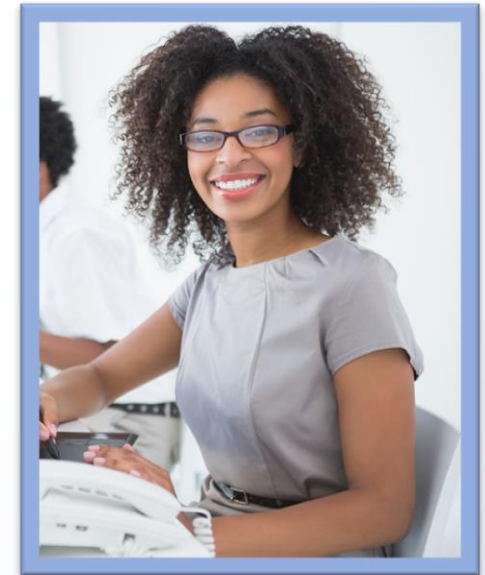
Reshaping their Futures. Launching their Careers.





iMfit2SUCCEED PROGRAM

A RESULTS-BASED JOURNEY TO WHOLE HEALTH & WELLNESS, INDEPENDENCE PREPARATION, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOSTER TEENS AGE 14-17.



iMhealthy

WHOLE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Nutrition education
- Food prep and culinary arts
- Food shopping, label reading
- Physical fitness, fitness classes, weight-lifting, sports
- Weight management
- Whole health assessments
- Mind, body, spirit connection
- Confidence building activities
- Stress management
- Anger management
- Healthy relationships, respect of yourself and others
- Personal hygiene
- Sex Ed, abstinence
- Sexually transmitted and infectious diseases, STD's, STI's, HIV
- Disease prevention

iMfree

EMOTIONAL HEALING AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- Expressive Arts such as: Dance, Drama, Voice, Music
- Creative Arts such as writing, design, crafts, pottery, photography, videography
- Group and individual counseling
- Trauma-informed mentoring
- Positive thinking and motivational workshops
- Relaxation techniques
- Mindfulness, meditation
- Moral conscience, ethics, and character development
- Spiritual guidance, prayer
- Bible study (optional)

iMequipped

SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND INDEPENDENCE TRAINING

- Life skills and household management
- Budgeting, financial literacy
- Personal tax preparation
- Transportation, car ownership, maintenance, responsibility, and insurance
- Resume writing and interviewing
- Dressing for success
- Professional presentations
- Managing personal and professional relationships
- Conflict resolution and commitment to non-violence

iMready!

EDUCATION, TRADE SKILLS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Academic education, tutoring
- Hands-on experience by working with Community Partners to offer internships and OJT
- Opportunity to develop real-world professional relationships
- Learn responsibility, critical thinking and problem-solving by serving on committees that require attending meetings, leading teams, and interacting with partners and volunteers
- Self-esteem and confidence building exercises
- Leadership development
- Gratitude, serving, giving back



2023-24 PROJECT TIMELINE

NOV



- Secure \$20K Working Capital
- Review and Permitting
- Conduct Facility Tours



DEC



- Permitting
- Site Tours
- Solicit Major Gifts
- Solicit In-Kind Goods & Services



JAN



- Permitting
- Site Tours
- Solicit Major Gifts
- Solicit In-Kind Goods & Services



FEB



- Begin Renovations
- Engage Community Service Projects
- Site Tours
- General Fundraising



MAR



- Continue Renovations
- Engage Community Service Projects
- Site Tours
- General Fundraising



APR



- Finish Renovations
- Program Pre-Enrollment
- Begin Promotions for Celebration Dinner and Education Center Grand Opening



MAY 4, 2024

Future:Youth™
EDUCATION CENTER
Celebration Dinner



MAY 6, 2024



EDUCATION CENTER
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024



CLASSES BEGIN!

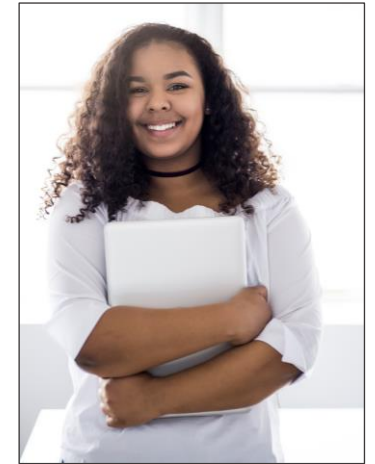
Health | Arts | Skills | Career

Future:Youth™

EDUCATION CENTER

Reshaping Futures.
Launching Careers.

bigcf.org



BiG Children's Foundation, Inc. is a Florida registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation serving at-risk youth. Employer Identification #47-3552022. Contributions Solicitation #CH44716. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Monetary gifts may be deductible as a charitable contribution as allowable by Internal Revenue Tax laws. Please consult your tax advisor. © 2023 Big Children's Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved.



bigcf.org