Educate Tomorrow’s mission is to create independence for disadvantaged and foster youth through education, mentoring, and life skills training.

Values: Strengths-based, Open Door Policy, Close-knit Community, Empowerment, Common Agenda, Shared Measurement, Collective Impact

Population/Context

Youth, in their teens and twenties
- Current or former foster youth
- Youth experiencing the following issues: hidden homelessness; neglected youth; those transitioning out of the child welfare system

Board Members
Volunteer Mentors
System/Community Partners

Issues/Needs:
- To raise awareness & knowledge/opportunities in higher education & service systems
- Underutilized funds for educational programs
- Competing life demands/ongoing challenges: lack of affordable housing, history of maltreatment, poverty, mental illness/substance use.
- To increase recruitment of qualified mentors
- To raise community awareness/support for youth experiences and transition needs
- Youth unprepared for success in higher education

Strengths:
- Commitment on part of ET, volunteers and community partners
- Youth are resourceful/resilient and perceptive with tenacity, street savvy
- Florida Tuition and Fee Exemption for Foster Youth
- Multiple entry points for youth/families
- Child serving systems recognize ET as an expert leading with an effective model

Strategies

Education
- Ongoing mentoring and education of youth (workshops, one-on-one sessions, presentations, in homes/group homes) to promote academic success
  - Existing partnerships with colleges/universities
  - Connecting youth with academic support services (ACT, prep, resource center)

Advocacy
- Work as thought leader that promotes communication within continuum
  - With partners, increase coordination of supportive services for youth
  - Establish communications plan / talking points for ET BOD, mentors & staff
  - Identify key issues for ET to effectively support
  - Support legislation to increase academic success

Mentoring
- Long-term guided support plan that helps youth/young adults become self-sufficient
  - Establish recruitment & screening guidelines for mentors
  - Establish recruitment & screening guidelines for youth mentees
  - Identify a coach for each youth / young adult served by ET

Capacity Building
- Formalize orientation process for ET Board
- Formalize training protocols and materials for mentors
- Review and redesign existing programs to maximize youth engagement & program success
- Establish criteria & training for youth leaders to give back to ET & community

Outcomes

Organization
- ET is recognized as a backbone organization for increasing college completion rates among foster youth
- Strong partnerships with youth-serving systems (i.e. M-DCPS, higher education, child welfare)
- Board is engaged and knowledgeable about ET, service use population, and continuum of care
- Staff, mentors and volunteers are knowledgeable about service use population, programs, and organization.
- Comprehensive continuum of care for foster youth is thriving

Program
- Increased number of students served by ET
- Youth express satisfaction with quality of services received
- Mentors have adequate capacity and are successfully matched to youth
- Staff is adequately trained and able to serve youth according to program guidelines
- Success coach for foster youth at every state university

Individual
- Increased academic success among youth served
- Increased completion of post-secondary education leading to successful employment
- Youth demonstrate self-efficacy and ability to transition to independent living
- Youth have secure housing & a medical home
- Consistent utilization of and retention in services for population of focus (youth moving through continuum)
- Youth are successfully completing higher education or employment training
- Youth make use of multiple entry points in system to receive life-long support

Building a Continuum of Care for Foster Youth
- Expand formal collaborative relationships with other agencies serving ETs population of focus
  - Help connect youth/young adults to additional supportive services in the community
  - Develop media and networking strategy at local, state, and national levels
  - Develop/support mutually reinforcing activities developed among partners

Ongoing monitoring and assessment of youth progress, program effectiveness and overall ET impacts