



Foster Awareness Network (FAN) is a nonprofit, no fee resource for anyone interested in learning how to help a foster child, become a foster parent, or looking to adopt. FAN was formed in 2011 for charitable and educational purposes to assist current and aged-out foster youth.

On any given day, El Dorado County has approximately 350 youth in the foster system. FAN strives to raise awareness of the needs of foster youth and former foster youth in our county through community events, organizational presentations and support fairs. We also collaborate with existing community service providers and other community nonprofits to facilitate connections to resources and networks available to foster youth, and to find better solutions to foster care needs. The goal is to prepare these children to have a better chance to succeed in life.

Many of the local foster care groups FAN has met with have expressed that FAN has a unique opportunity in our community to raise awareness, network between groups to fill gaps and strengthen collaboration between all organizations and the efforts they produce.

From early on, FAN has partnered with the El Dorado County Office of Education to provide an annual Symposium to bring together key decision makers from county departments, foster care agencies and various community groups to encourage networking and identification of opportunities within the foster care system (see attached Mountain Democrat article).

FAN also partners with the El Dorado Community Foundation (EDCF) to provide outreach and forums, and to secure emergency grant funding (see attached examples).

In addition to our annual Foster Care Symposium, FAN participates in Kids' Expo (April), EDCF's annual 'Give Where You Live' fundraiser, various nonprofit fairs, county chamber events, and conducts an annual clothing giveaway.

Our current Board of Directors includes:

CEO, Founder: Jeanne Hall, Executive Director

President: Christy Johnson

Vice President: Christine Thiel

Treasurer: Patti Pitts

Secretary: Roseann Livingston

Director: Robert Henderson

We are embarking on a 2016 campaign to raise awareness of the needs of foster youth throughout the county. The campaign – "Superman was a foster child" – is underway in collaboration with local community leaders and media outlets. We are gratefully requesting a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors to name 2016 as the 'Year of the foster child' in El Dorado County.

MISSION: To Collaborate with community groups to help foster children succeed.

VISION: To change the dynamic in America from a pool of waiting children, to a pool of waiting parents.



Foster Awareness Network

Foster youth need opportunities to pursue their goals and reach their potential. Foster Awareness Network (FAN) strives to assist in providing a support system and to facilitate connections to community resources that foster youth and former foster youth need to become successful and stable adults.

As a local nonprofit organization, FAN collaborates with existing county services and community agencies to develop solutions to help foster kids achieve a successful life after foster care. As they age out of the system, many former foster youth face daily struggles with housing, finances and adult support. Higher education often takes a back seat to basic survival.

FAN had a gratifying opportunity recently to assist a young student and former foster youth from El Dorado County. Having aged out of the foster care system and living on her own, this young woman had been attending college in pursuit of a service-oriented career that will allow her to help others in need.

She sought out and initially received grant money for her tuition and fees through the California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth program. When that funding ended, and a second donor fell through, FAN was able to intervene by successfully facilitating a grant application for education funds. Securing this money allowed this dedicated student to complete her coursework.

"FAN exists to help provide opportunities for our foster youth," explained Jeanne Hall, Founder and Executive Director of FAN. "Research shows just 1%-5% of foster youth graduate from college. If this young woman had not received assistance, she would likely have not been able to finish her education."

For more information about how you can help a foster youth, please email us at fanusa95667@gmail.com or contact us at (530) 626-0444. You may also visit our website <http://www.fan-usa.org> and/or Facebook page (Foster Awareness Network) for additional information.

Helping foster kids succeed.

This monthly feature is sponsored by **THE WINDFALL**



Foster Awareness Network

Foster Awareness Network (FAN) was formed for charitable and educational purposes to assist current and aged out foster youth. Our organization is dedicated to raising awareness of the issues and collaborating with existing community groups to work on finding better solutions to foster care issues.

Since our inception in 2011, FAN has partnered with the El Dorado County Office of Education in bringing together county officials, various agencies serving the foster care community, and the community at large to identify issues that may impact foster families and foster youth. Using our network of community resources, FAN intervenes on behalf of foster families to find solutions to a variety of issues.

One such occasion occurred recently when a county kinship care family experienced a series of unintended events that resulted in a temporary loss of funding for the family. After multiple unsuccessful attempts to find a source of emergency funds, and on the verge of surrendering the foster children, the family was referred to FAN. FAN was able to secure a grant from the El Dorado Community Foundation for short-term funds to carry the family through the crisis. As a kinship care family, wherein the foster care is provided by relatives of the children, it was especially important to maintain this family unit.

“This is why FAN exists,” said Jeanne Hall, Founder and Executive Director of FAN. “We were able to fill a need and help keep this family together during a difficult time.”

For more information about FAN and to learn how you can help a foster youth, please stop by our resource center at 4095 Cameron Park Drive, Cameron Park, email us at fanusa95667@gmail.com or contact us at (530) 626-0444. You may also visit our website <http://www.fan-usa.org> and/or Facebook page (Foster Awareness Network) for additional information.

Helping foster kids succeed.

This monthly feature is sponsored by **THE WINDFALL**



Foster Awareness Network

Foster Awareness Network (FAN) fulfills a unique role in El Dorado County. By familiarizing ourselves with local agencies and organizations, we are better able to network between the groups to fill gaps and, through collaboration, strengthen the efforts of all.

“Our mission at FAN is to collaborate with community groups to help foster kids succeed,” said Jeanne Hall, Founder and Executive Director of FAN. “Spreading awareness of the needs of foster youth and foster families, and helping to connect individuals with the many resources in our community are our primary goals.”

The original intent of foster care was to be a temporary situation, whenever possible. However, foster care has become a system where youth tend to come in at an early age and stay until they age out or emancipate. Additionally, their placement within foster homes often changes several times. As a result, many youth lack the preparation and skills needed to successfully “age out” of the foster care system and live as productive adults in society.

Not long ago, staff from a local nonprofit facility contacted FAN with concerns about six former foster youth. Having aged out of the system, with no family contacts, and dealing with both physical and mental challenges, the youths were struggling with basic needs.

FAN was able to provide some much-needed clothing (collected during a previous clothing drive) and offer gift cards to local stores for purchase of food and hygiene products. FAN had secured the gift cards through a grant from the El Dorado Community Foundation for use in emergency situations. By providing immediate resources and solutions, FAN is working to give these and other former foster youth a better chance to succeed in life.

Please visit our website <http://www.fan-usa.org> and Facebook page for information about ways you can help a foster youth.

Helping foster kids succeed.

This monthly feature is sponsored by **THE WINDFALL**