



March 5, 2015

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

It is with great excitement to be sharing with you the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Program information. Your support of this program will have a direct impact on foster youth who dream of pursuing a post secondary education.

We began the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Program in 2006 with the purpose to provide foster youth the opportunity and motivation to reach their academic dreams. We believe this program will assist in our mission, which is to build the hopes, dreams, and futures of foster children and be a guiding source for a successful transition into the adult world.

Please review the following sponsorship documents to learn how your participation in our *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Program can impact a foster youth's dream of attending college or a vocational program. The documents include a program overview and a sponsorship commitment form. If you would like additional documents about the scholarship program, please contact me.

The *Dare to Dream* Scholarships will be awarded at an annual event in May. More information to come as we hope you can attend.

Thank you for sharing your support with the foster youth in your community. If you have any questions about the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Program or Foster A Dream other services, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Tamara Earl  
Foster A Dream Program Director



## *Dare to Dream Scholarship Overview*

The Foster A Dream Program was founded with the mission to build the hopes, dreams, and futures of foster children and be a guiding source for a successful transition into the adult world.

Currently, foster youth face staggering statistics as they emancipate from the system.

50% of foster youth will not graduate from high school.

70% of foster youth dream of attending college and only 3% enroll.

Of those who enroll, only 2% graduate.

These statistics cannot be ignored. We need to assist foster youth in overcoming these obstacles by inspiring them to believe and achieve their dreams.

In response to these statistics, Foster A Dream launched the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Program in 2006, with the goal to support foster youth in pursuing a higher education. Since 2006, we have awarded \$214,200 to 101 scholars enrolled in Vocational, College, and University schools.

To honor the *Dare to Dream* scholars and celebrate May as National Foster Care Awareness Month, Foster A Dream hosts an annual awards dinner. At the event, each scholar is recognized for their academic achievements and received a certificate stating their award. Sponsors are invited to attend the annual event and share support with the recipients.

During the 2014 scholar awards event, 21 current and former foster youth were awarded scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$5000 totaling \$44,000. The scholars included youth who recently graduated high school, from Deer Valley High, Rodriguez High, and other Bay Area High Schools, as well as youth who will be continuing their education at local colleges like Diablo Valley College, San Francisco State University, UC Berkeley, and out of state colleges like Lewis and Clark College and Langston University.

The *Dare to Dream* Scholarship application packet includes 2 letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and specific eligibility requirements. Applicants are offered assistance in completing the packet and guidance in planning their academic future. Each scholarship packet is scored by a review committee team to enhance the evaluation process.

All the scholarships are sponsored by community members, local businesses and foundations. Scholarship funds are not disbursed to the scholars, instead, program staff commits to managing the scholarships by disbursing the funds directly to the school or third party to meet each scholar's academic needs. Program staff also monitors each recipient's academic standing (GPA and enrollment status) and offers mentor support through the duration of the scholarship.



## Dare to Dream Scholarship Sponsor Commitment Form

\*Sponsorship commitment needed by April 15. Sponsorship Payment needed by May 1.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select the scholarship category and amount listed or complete the blank option below.**  
Partial sponsorships are accepted and maybe combined to fill a full scholarship amount.

- **Scholastic Achievement**      \$2500 \_\_\_\_\_      \$1500 \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Rising Above Adversity**      \$2500 \_\_\_\_\_      \$1500 \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Community Involvement**      \$2500 \_\_\_\_\_      \$1500 \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Community College**      \$500 \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Revolving 4-Year**      \$4000 \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr 1: \$1000, Yr. 2: \$1000, Yr. 3: \$1000, & Yr 4: \$1000)
  - **Optional Sponsorship Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation Notes: (scholarship category/in honor/memory, specific college major)
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### Scholarship Payment Information:

- Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please write checks payable to "Volunteers of America" and write "Dare to Dream" on the memo.
- Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sec. Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form and payment to:  
Foster A Dream Program, 628 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553.

Thank you for helping us build a brighter tomorrow for today's foster children.

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Foster A Dream Program of Volunteers of America Northern California Northern Nevada is a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our Federal Tax ID# 94-6001984. Accordingly, your contributions may be deducted under section 170 on the code.

INTERNAL USE ONLY: REC \_\_\_\_\_ FY \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_