

# BRIDGE BUILDERS NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for Teens and Their Caregivers  
“Bridging the Gap for Youths Leaving Foster Care”

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JANUARY 2021



Happy  
New Year!

YTIA is determined to keep a positive attitude and trust that this COVID Pandemic will soon be over. Because there are still distancing restrictions we will continue to use Zoom (with email notifications) as the means of sharing information and for hosting fun activities. Let's all resolve to stay positive (and safe) this year!



## AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Thank you to those of you who participated in our Gingerbread Train Decorating Contest in December. Whenever we host an activity like this we want everyone to just have a little fun. We hope that those who requested and received a kit (but did not submit an entry) enjoyed the kit anyway. We've got lots of talent out there.

So here are photos of the winning submissions:



From left to right: First Place – Nevaeh; Second Place – Erissa; Third Place – Elisia

There is some amazing talent among youths in foster care and we are so proud to be able to highlight these God-given skills. Hope each of you enjoy your prize winnings; spend wisely!



**YTIA** (Youth Transitioning Into Adulthood)

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29256, San Antonio, Texas 78229 \* (210) 256-1888 \* E-Mail: [ytia2009@gmail.com](mailto:ytia2009@gmail.com)  
YTIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, faith-based (non-denominational) organization

## WORKSHOPS HAVE BEEN RE-NAMED

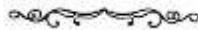
We decided that the name “Pre-College Prep” just wasn’t right because we don’t just encourage attending college for the sake of getting a college degree, we are actually trying to encourage youths to lock-in their Tuition & Fee Waiver by using it at a Community College, even if it’s for a training program to get a good job.

### FIRST WORKSHOP OF 2021

YTIA will host it’s first “Pre-College & Career (PCC) Workshop” on January 16<sup>th</sup> at noon via Zoom. We are accepting registrations for this workshop; see attached flyer for Registration link.



The topic for this workshop will be: “**Scholarships: Where They Are and How to Get Them**”. All teens are encouraged to participate. Did you know that you can apply for some scholarships at 13 and 14 years of age and just “bank” them for when you need them? Youths in care get a Tuition & Fee Waiver and some other financial incentives but did you know that sometimes, that just isn’t enough? Find out where to get that “extra money” to help make your dreams come true without having to get in debt.



## NEWS FROM TX FAME

WE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM THE TX FAME PROGRAM (THROUGH ST. PHILIPS COLLEGE). SEE BELOW. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD RATHER LEARN AND WORK AT THE SAME TIME. THIS MIGHT BE THE PROGRAM FOR YOU. IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FERNANDO ROVER DIRECTLY (HIS INFORMATION APPEARS BELOW).

Good morning education and community partners,

Hope everyone had a well-spent holiday and a great start to the New Year! Just wanted to touch base regarding all things Texas FAME:

### Program Updates

#### *Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program*

Applications for our two year AMT program will be accepted until **April 30<sup>th</sup>** at 5pm, however early submission is strongly encouraged.

Attached you will find application checklists for both the Apply Texas application and the Texas FAME application attached to this e-mail.

These checklists can also be found on the Texas FAME website respectively.

#### *Fame Accelerated Skills Training (FAST) program*

We launched our second FAME program, our short-term, nine week accelerated program FAST last October.

We will have several cohorts this year so the application period will be recurring.

Any and all further information can be found at our Texas FAME website as well.

### Marketing & Recruitment Updates

Due to COVID-19, we have had to reimagine recruitment and incorporate virtual components and having an archive of videos available for viewing and reviewing.

#### *TX FAME Virtual Open House*

We will be having three more opportunities to learn about both of our programs at our Virtual Open House:



*(Youth Transitioning Into Adulthood)*

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- Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 2pm
- Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 2pm
- Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 2pm

Registration information can be found on our Texas FAME website and meeting log in information will be sent out accordingly.

Any further questions or concerns can be referred to 210-452-6959 or [info@txfame.com](mailto:info@txfame.com)

**\*Note:** Recordings of our previous Open Houses can be found on our TX FAME YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLex9JBAilk&t=1s>

*Virtual Recruitment Presentations*

Due to COVID-19, we will not be doing in person presentations but we are offering virtual presentations on Zoom.

To reserve a virtual presentation, please fill out a request for info form on our TX FAME website or contact

us [info@txfame.com](mailto:info@txfame.com)

*TX FAME YouTube Page*

We launched our TX FAME YouTube page in September 2020 and the recorded videos of the following previous events can be found:

- National Manufacturing Month events
- ✓ A Day In The Life of A Technician
- ✓ AMT Virtual Panel
- ✓ Women In Engineering Panel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbmn7Dhil4IEcnYNWz1ewdA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbmn7Dhil4IEcnYNWz1ewdA?view_as=subscriber)

**Additional Questions**

For more information on our TX FAME programs or how to schedule a virtual presentation, you can reach **Fernando Rover** at [fernando.rover@bexar.org](mailto:fernando.rover@bexar.org) or [info@txfame.com](mailto:info@txfame.com) or **210-452-6959**.

Have a good day,

**Fernando Rover**

Liaison – Workforce Development

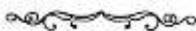
101 W Nueva Street Suite 942 | San Antonio, TX 78205

O: 210-335-3423 | C: (210) 452-6959

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**HOW ARE YOU DOING ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES?**

We know that some youths are back in school and we know that school supplies don't last forever. If you need school supplies, please either email us at [ytia2009@gmail.com](mailto:ytia2009@gmail.com) (please put "School Supply Request" in the subject line and list the items you need in the body of the email) or give us a call at 210-256-1888 to let us know what you need. We will arrange to get the items you need to you.



***"BRIDGING THE GAP FOR YOUTHS LEAVING FOSTER CARE"***

*Build bridges wherever you go with people who can provide encouragement and support.*

Follow YTIA on Facebook. Share your thoughts with us about our Facebook page AND share this newsletter. Or, "like" us on Facebook. And, let us know what you've been up to during this pandemic.

We can be reached through our website ([www.ytia.org](http://www.ytia.org); just send us a "contact"), or on the phone (210) 256-1888, or via email at [ytia2009@gmail.com](mailto:ytia2009@gmail.com). If you have a question, concern, or issue, we'd like to hear about it; give us a call.

*If someone you know wants to receive "Bridge Builders Newsletter", have them send Mary Valdez and email or text message.*

*If you want to be removed (unsubscribed) from this list, please do the same thing (send an email or text message).*

*Thanks.*



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