

# BRIDGE BUILDERS NEWSLETTER

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

Newsletter Writer/Editor: Mary E. Fuentes Valdez (Mobile: 210-842-8955)

JUNE 2021



*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!*



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Coming soon: **Volunteer Activity at our new “Adopt-A-Spot”.**

One of our fabulous Board Members, Becky Brooks, has agreed to handle volunteer activities for YTIA. She has found us our very own “Adopt-A-Spot” here in San Antonio and she is getting ready to have our first activity out at the location. We will pick up trash and try to plan for our “spot” to look beautiful in the neighborhood where it resides. **KEEP YOUR EYES WIDE OPEN** because we will post our upcoming event here and on our website; some of you may even get emails, if you are on our list!!!

### PRE-COLLEGE & CAREER WORKSHOP

**WORKSHOP: JUNE 19, 2021 AT NOON VIA ZOOM**

**DO YOU REALIZE THAT YTIA HAS CONTINUED TO OFFER WORKSHOPS ON THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH? THOSE YOUTHS WHO HAVE ATTENDED THEM HAVE GIVEN US GREAT FEEDBACK ABOUT ALL THEY’VE LEARNED.**

**WE HAVE DECIDED TO COLLABORATE WITH CREDIT HUMAN ON OUR NEXT WORKSHOP WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON VIA ZOOM (SO YOU DON’T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE AND YOU DON’T EVEN HAVE TO INTERACT WITH ANYONE, UNLESS YOU WANT TO). THEY WILL HAVE VITAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND SOME GREAT DOOR PRIZES. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH YOUTHS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT THEY ARE “ON TRACK” FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THEIR LIVES. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LET US KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THIS WORKSHOP SO YOU CAN REGISTER AND LEARN A LOT! WE’VE TITLED THIS ONE “WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?” AND WE MEAN IT! JOIN US FOR THIS WONDERFUL PRESENTATION.**

**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

## (Abbreviated) YOUTH EXPLOSION

Also coming up in July is our mini-virtual-Youth-Explosion. We know, we miss you too, but we have to be safe so we cancelled last year entirely but this year we will have an abbreviated version of our usual all-day event. We hope that you keep looking out for information as the event approaches on July 14<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday). Mark your calendar now for that morning event! You're going to love it!



### Calling all ARTISTS

Here's a fun contest that you might be interested in!

Okay so we hope that Fiesta San Antonio will happen during its normal time (April, not June) and we need your help. We are having a CONTEST so that one of you can draw our next year's (2022) Fiesta medal. Yes, there will be prizes and yes, you will be recognized as our medal creator! We have had a medal each year (except for last year) but we are ready to get back in there and you can help! The contest starts on JULY 1 and will go through AUGUST 31, 2021. Watch this space for our registration form, if you have the TALENT to create our medal for next year!



YTIA was so proud to be a part of the graduation event that PAL hosted on May 20, 2021 at Central Catholic High School Gym. We gave each Senior a gift that we hope they will use long after they have left foster care.



Here are a few photos from the PAL Graduation Dinner.

**Congratulations to all our 2021 GRADUATES!!!!**

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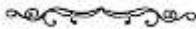


## TX Fame

This is one amazing program for youths who want to get into a manufacturing field but want to work too; you learn your craft and get a job through one of the programs working with this group so you can earn a living also. For more information on the 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**.

### Fernando Rover

Liaison – Workforce Development  
101 W Nueva Street Suite 942 | San Antonio, TX 78205  
O: 210-335-3423 | C: (210) 452-6959



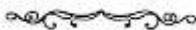
## “GOOD CAREERS ACADEMY”

Reach out to Todd Rich if you want to attend training in several different areas and work also. Classes fill up quickly but are so worth it. **TEAM GOODWILL!!”**

### Todd G. Rich

Senior Manager of Education & Training  
406 W. Commerce, San Antonio, TX 78207  
(210) 924-8581 ext. 1221  
[goodwillsa.org](http://goodwillsa.org)

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## “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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