

Issue: #1

October 5, 2007

## IN THIS ISSUE

[MEMBER SPOTLIGHT](#)[TURN DALLAS ORANGE](#)

## QUICK LINKS

[CALENDAR](#)[MORE ON US](#)[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## REGIONAL TEEN CONFERENCE COMING RIGHT UP!!

Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm

First Baptist Church, Arlington

"Take Life to the Extreme" is the theme for the second annual Foster Teen Conference for North Texas foster teens ages 16-18. It is set for all day on Saturday, October 20. All of the conference presentations are planned to help teens considering their options for life after foster care - managing money, building solid relationships, getting jobs that lead to great careers. Sessions will be fun and interactive. Several speakers grew up in the foster care system and will be sharing how they have moved beyond those challenges to be successful adults.

Door prizes include IPOD nanos and shuffles and a bike!

Advance registration is required and is needed by October 10.

To register: [REGIONAL TEEN CONFERENCE](#) or call Noemi at TRAC: 214- 370-9300 x 32 in Dallas or toll free: 866-466-8722



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Ashby Commons, TRAC  
Transitional Housing

## APARTMENTS AVAILABLE!! - TRAC TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

For former foster youth, finding safe, stable affordable housing can be a challenge. TRAC offers a flexible transitional housing program that is available for up to 18 months for former foster youth ages 18-24 who are really want some support and assistance as they transition to life on their own. Apartments are near downtown Dallas and public transportation, an ideal situation for those attending El Centro or working anywhere in the Metroplex. TRAC's focus is on offering opportunities to build independent living skills: help with budgeting, cooking, finding the right job and following through on other plans to reach personal goals. TRAC has resident advisors and coaches who are there to help when needed.

Youth live in a group apartment initially and can move to their own one-bedroom apartment as fast as they can demonstrate they are ready for that responsibility. All living expenses are paid in the group apartment and then rent is subsidized for independent living apartments. To find out more about TRAC transitional housing, visit TRAC HOUSING. To apply for TRAC housing, contact Desi Cohn at TRAC, 214-370-9300 x 24 (toll free: 866-466-8722) or email

[desi@traconline.org](mailto:desi@traconline.org)

## onTRAC: COLLEGE TOURS

Learn more about...

- Campus Activities
- Admissions Requirements
- Work Study
- Financial Aid
- Dorm Life
- Academic Support & More

## TOUR DATES:

10/24/07 - University of North Texas - Denton

11/28/07 - TEXAS A&M - Commerce

All tours are 10am-2pm. For more information please call Erica Jones @ 214.370.9300 x 13

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: AMBER BARAJAS

### SHE'S IN THE NAVY NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"Well, let me start by saying that I know this is the right thing for me, but it's HARD AS HELL!" This was the opening sentence from the first letter that Amber sent her extended family at TRAC after arriving in Great Lakes, Illinois at the Naval Training Center for boot camp. Amber is a 21 year old young lady who has always set her goals high in life and has done an incredible job achieving them. After working very hard going to college full time, holding down multiple jobs, and working her way through the TRAC transitional living program; Amber made the decision to enlist in the NAVY. On October 19th 2007, Amber will graduate from boot camp and begin her career in the NAVY. All of Amber's friends and coaches at TRAC are so proud of Amber and all that she has accomplished and will achieve in her future! Amber is a great role model and is inspiring others to work hard to achieve their dreams too!



## GET INVOLVED: CHANGE FOR TODAY & TOMORROW -

C4t<sup>2</sup>

### AN INVITATION FROM THE C4t<sup>2</sup> PRESIDENT

Hello! As a former foster youth myself, I'm honored and proud to represent Change for Today and Tomorrow (C4t<sup>2</sup>) as President. C4t<sup>2</sup> gives not only our current foster youth, but the emancipated youth information regarding their rights, and helps provide a level of empowerment to exercise these very rights.

C4t<sup>2</sup> boasts of a promising future, helping those directly involved with the youth action council and those who benefit by its missions and goals. Change for Today and Tomorrow will give North Texas youth a sense of belonging and an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Inevitably, we, current and former foster youth who know it best, can change Texas' Child Protective Services.

We need your help to recruit and invite current and former foster youth to attend C4t<sup>2</sup>'s once-a-month meetings. All meeting are open to non-members. We encourage community members, mentors, foster and adoptive parents, Congress members, counselor's, judges, etc. to attend when available.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting scheduled for **Saturday, October 27th from 2-4pm** at the TRAC offices, 3108 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204!

Thank you - *Tiffani Harrison*

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

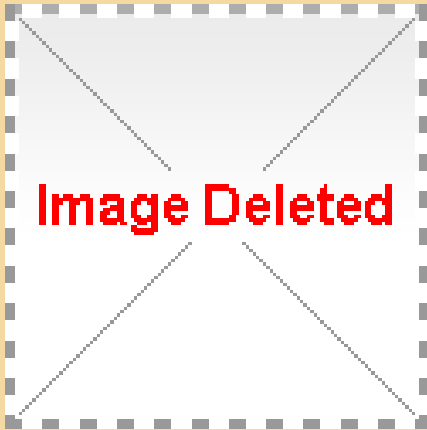
Have you seen TRAC's public service message? It was developed to help create awareness about teens in substitute care and to recruit mentors, foster families and adoptive families. It was produced for TRAC through the

[Design America Foundation](#) by [AMS Production Group](#) in Dallas.

We welcome others to share this video recruitment tool, which is currently being used across the country by groups addressing this issue. To learn how you can use this PSA in your community, contact Kelly at [hello@designamerica.org](mailto:hello@designamerica.org)



## TURN DALLAS ORANGE: LIFE IS GOOD PUMPKIN FESTIVAL



WEST VILLAGE in DALLAS

NOON - 8PM SATURDAY

OCT. 27th 2007

The 2007 Life is good Pumpkin Festival features a fun-filled day and night of live music, delicious food, and lighthearted homegrown activities such as scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin catapults, gourd bowling, and treasure hunts. People of all ages soak up the good vibes and the spectacular sight of more than 6,000 pumpkins aglow in the night.

Calling all "master carvers"--- come join us on the afternoon before the pumpkin festival to help us reach our goal of 6,000 glowing pumpkins. The Great Carve-Off will be held Friday, October 26, from noon to 8pm at the venue site. Teams of 15 will be carving against each other to see who will be crowned the Great Pumpkins at the festival for carving the most pumpkins in their two hour shift. TRAC will be competing in the Carve-Off with two teams made up of staff and youth!

For more information, or to register your team please visit: [www.dallaspumpkinfestival.org](http://www.dallaspumpkinfestival.org)

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