



Youth For Tomorrow's Unaccompanied Immigrant Minor Program

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

June 21, 2018

Six years ago, President Barack Obama appealed to Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell asking whether there were any facilities in Virginia willing to help children who were coming across our borders without accompaniment. Youth For Tomorrow received this bipartisan request and as a humanitarian and faith-based institution, we responded to the plight of these children, all of whom are impoverished, fleeing gang violence in their home country, and many of whom have been physically and sexually abused as well as labor or sexually trafficked.

These children are temporary residents in our homes. We provide a warm, welcoming and safe home environment. We feed, clothe and educate these children in our private nationally accredited school, provide counseling and nursing care, and prepare them for reunification, ensuring a safe release, with family members in the United States or with other fully vetted sponsors. All of our professionally trained and credentialed staff members are sensitive to the children's special needs and many staff are bilingual. Our program is scheduled to serve the children for an average of 45 days at which time they are reunited with family already in America or with other sponsors.

Youth For Tomorrow is licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services to serve children ages 10-17 including pregnant and parenting teens with children from those in a mother's womb to 4 years of age. YFT has served 5,956 children since its inception in 1986. Of those, 3,641 have been domestic children and 2,315 have been unaccompanied immigrant children over the past six years. Many of the immigrant children come from Central America, but also from other countries around the world. Last year alone, YFT has served children from 10 countries on its 185 acre campus: Burundi, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

While they are with us, we protect their privacy, believing that these vulnerable children need time to participate in counseling for the traumas they have experienced in their homeland, and during what is in many cases a dangerous, traumatic and arduous trip to America.

These children are sent to YFT through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Officials from those agencies and we at Youth For Tomorrow are committed to the health, safety, and security of these children which includes protecting them from any form of exploitation while they are residing in our children's homes.

Funding for these children comes from the US Department of Health & Human Services. This program for these unaccompanied children began in 2003 through a Congressional appropriation during the President George W. Bush Administration.

About Youth For Tomorrow

Youth For Tomorrow is a non-profit entity founded in 1983 by the legendary Redskins Head Coach Joe Gibbs. YFT opened its doors in 1986 to boys with behavioral issues and provided them with residential care and education. In 2003, YFT added a program for girls, in 2007 for pregnant teens and launched a program in 2009 for sexually abused and trafficked teenage girls which has become a national model for such services. The children who are placed with YFT have faced abuse, neglect and unspeakable tragedy. Our mission is to provide them the opportunity to focus their lives and develop the confidence, skills, intellectual ability, spiritual insight and moral integrity to lead productive lives. In keeping with our Founder's decree -- to serve the needs of at-risk children and families in crisis, we turn no child away for lack of their ability to pay.

Since the doors opened in 1986, Youth For Tomorrow has provided services to more than 29,100 children, adults and families in crisis, at the YFT campus and the four regional offices. In 2017 alone, YFT served 2,322 children, families and adults in its outpatient behavioral health services programs, including more than 200 military members. YFT's behavioral health services have a strong record of success, with greater than 95% of the participants satisfied with the clinical staff and 90% believing that their therapists have been supportive.

Seeking excellence in all phases of its program, YFT has voluntarily sought and achieved national accreditations from the three most prominent and prestigious organizations in the fields of residential, educational, behavioral and mental health (clinical) services: Joint Commission (Oakbrook Terrace, IL.), Council on Accreditation (NY, NY), and AdvancED (Atlanta, GA.).

Contact Information

Dr. Gary L. Jones
CEO
Youth For Tomorrow
703-396-7202
gjones@yftva.com

11835 Hazel Circle Dr.
Bristow, VA 20136