How You Can Help
Your tax-deductible donations will support our goals, enabling independence for Lake County’s vulnerable young adults.

Please send your check, payable to Forward Paths Foundation, along with this completed form, to the address listed below:

Donor’s Name __________________________
Mailing Address __________________________
City __________________________ Zip Code __________
Phone number __________________________
E-Mail __________________________

FORWARD PATHS FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 492109
Leesburg, Florida 34749

A copy of the official registration for the foundation and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State of Florida. The numbers to call: in state – 1-800-435-7352; out of state – 1-850-410-3800. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State of Florida.

Facts and Figures
In Florida, over 3,000 teens who have aged out of Foster Care are without a family, according to the Department of Children and Families. Of those:

1 in 4 will be incarcerated within the first two years

More than 20% will become homeless at some point after age 18

Approximately 58% had a high school degree at age 19, compared to 87% of a national comparison group of non-foster youth

Less than 3% earn their college degree by the age of 25 compared to the general population of 28%

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families

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Everyone should have the opportunity to live up to his or her full potential.

But when a young person does not have housing, financial means, education and adult support to navigate their late teen and early adult years, only a resilient few will choose the right path.

The mission of the Forward Paths Foundation is to positively influence at-risk youth and forever revolutionize their path to independence.

Our goal is to build a tiny home community in Leesburg to provide temporary housing. This program will be supervised by Resident Managers to ensure a safe environment for those pursuing their educational job training goals.

How We Do It

Provide Temporary Housing
Our goal is to build a tiny home community in Leesburg to provide temporary housing. This program will be supervised by Resident Managers to ensure a safe environment for those pursuing their educational job training goals.

Job Skills
Mentoring will be provided in the critical skills that employers are looking for such as being organized, dependable, having a positive attitude, wearing multiple hats, making a strong commitment, being willing to go the extra mile, decision making and communication. We will also help them obtain part-time employment while attending vocational school or college where they can practice these job skills.

Education
Education is a critical part of the road to independence. The youths will partner with our Board of Directors and volunteer community members to analyze their interests and strengths and find the education or training program leading to meaningful employment. Once the youths have identified a path to pursue, applications will be made for either college or vocational training, with the help of our Board members and volunteers.

Who We Help

Our focus is on Lake County’s homeless unaccompanied youths and young adults who age out of foster care. Some teens are abandoned by their parent(s) and left to navigate on their own. They are enrolled in high school but have no permanent housing or adult supervision. They must find a place to live, a job, and transportation. Without supportive relationships or positive role models, very few have the resources and life skills to become successful. It is no surprise that 1 in 4 of these youths end up incarcerated, according to the Florida Department of Children and Families. This impacts government budgets and the quality of life in our communities.

The Foundation was created by concerned men and women who serve the community as Guardians Ad Litem, attorneys, D.C.F. case managers, accountants, and sales and marketing entrepreneurs who have experienced first-hand what happens to young people who age out of the foster care system without continued support. Leaving foster care at the age of 18, they risk the loss of housing, financial aid, and adult support. This caring group of volunteers saw the need and created a 501c3 non-profit organization to generate and administer funds designed to provide temporary housing and qualifying financial support, e.g. emergency funds to pay a utility bill or buy textbooks. These volunteers also organize their personal resources to provide one-to-one mentoring and group classes to teach financial management, job search techniques, and navigate the maze of college enrollment and financial aid applications.

What We Do

We work with Lake County’s vulnerable youth and young adults and together we develop an individualized plan so they can become independent through continuing education and life skills training. In addition, we provide temporary housing with adult supervision and guidance, as they transition to living independently.

Get Involved

We need volunteers to help us work with the vulnerable youth of Lake County. Your skills as an educator, counselor, clergy, or member of the business community are needed and welcome. If you would like more information please call us at 352-408-2307 or send an email to info@forwardpaths.org.