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January 9, 2012

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To Whom It May Concern:

There are approximately 500,000 children in the foster care system in the United States. Do you ever wonder what happens to those who do not get adopted, return to parents or relatives? For the approximately 200,000 American foster youth who turn 18 and step out into the world alone, it is not easy. Transitioning foster youth face numerous challenges and have very little support if any. According to available studies on this population, fifty-percent of youths become homeless within 18 months, sixty-five percent of youth leaving foster care need immediate housing upon release, seventy five percent of youth in foster care are at least a grade level behind in school and fifty-four percent of youths age out of foster care without a high school diploma, and forty-two percent of youths become parents within two to four years of aging out. In Nueces County, the percentage of teenage parents is much higher.

In the Coastal Bend Area, a group of concerned volunteers decided to form a collaborative, Foster Youth Life Investment Partners (FYLIP), to help address these issues. FYLIP is committed to leading, guiding and supporting foster youth aged-out of the foster care system in Nueces County and the surrounding communities. It is the goal of this organization to help empower foster youth to become independent, self-sufficient, and productive members of our community, who will set a positive example by becoming role models who inspire others to follow in their path to success.

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our community, FYLIP raised over 11,000 on last year's tournament. FYLIP's 5th Annual Gary Inmon Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at North Shore Country Club in Portland, Texas. We are asking that you look deep in your heart and help us give these young people the opportunity to succeed. Your cash donation is of utmost need and deeply appreciated by more people than you can imagine. We are also accepting donated items for our raffle and silent auction. Please find the attached Sponsorship Form and return it with your donation no later than February 27, 2013.

Once again, thank you for your commitment and willingness to invest in our community. Together we can shape the lives of many and the future of our community as well. If you would like to schedule a meeting to learn more about our organization, please call or come by our office.

Sincerely,

Kenia Dimas  
2013 Gary Inmon Memorial  
President