



Member of the National
CASA Association

Raising a foster child

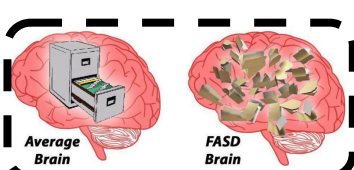
In three weeks, Kathryn White's son Chris will turn 18. There will be a little birthday celebration – and a hint of desperation.

The milestone officially makes Chris an adult, and that will make it hard for his parents to find the shelter and counseling he needs.

Kathryn and her husband, Shaun, took in Chris and his younger brother as foster children when the boys were 5 and 3, and adopted them a few years later.

Their mother was an addict, and both children were born with fetal alcohol syndrome – which damages the brain in utero, causing stunted growth, mental deficits and behavior problems.

FASD



**HEALTHY MENDOCINO
Child Abuse Rate
In Mendocino County
IN THE RED**
per 1,000 children
under age 18



Volunteers
are just ordinary people
with extraordinary
hearts.

They offer the
gift of their time
to teach, to listen,
to help, to inspire,
to build, to grow,
to learn.

They expect no pay,
yet the value of their
work knows no limit...

They've known the
unexpected joy
of a simple hug.

They've planted tiny
seeds of love
in countless lives.

Volunteers
are just ordinary people
who reach out
and take a hand
and together
make a difference
that lasts a lifetime.

2014-2015 Mendocino County Grand Jury Report

Children at Risk

When the Grand Jury reports on an entity, the governing body of that entity is required to respond to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 60 days for elected officials and 90 days for all others. Responses are listed immediately following their respective reports.

Grand Jury Responses

Family & Children's Services—Children at Risk



Bridges to the Future

Education Access for Foster Youth

Children in foster care consistently experience some of the lowest educational outcomes of all youth. This is evident in the fact that less than 50 percent of foster youth graduate from high school and a mere 3 percent graduate from college. The reasons for this are clear: research demonstrates that every time a child changes schools, they lose up to 6 months of their education and many foster youth may change schools 10-15 times throughout their education. Furthermore, many foster children suffer from the emotional ramifications of the incidents that led to their placement in foster care, and this can lead to acting out and avoidance of school.



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Access

Life after foster care

By Robert Gauthier

Their stories begin with heartbreak. A family unable or unwilling to care for them. Parents dead, addicted to drugs, absent.

About 400,000 children in the U.S. live in foster care, according to federal officials. Entry into the foster care system is meant to keep them safe, but the reality is often fraught with its own dangers and disappointments. Times photojournalist Robert Gauthier interviewed more than a dozen young men and women from the Los Angeles area who were on the verge of being emancipated from foster care or had recently aged-out of "the system."

Many fight a daily battle to shed the label of "system kid." Often they are ill-prepared to survive on their own, let alone succeed. They talked to The Times about their past, as well as their dreams for the future. Asked to describe themselves in one word, they answered "survivor," "driven," "adaptable."

Save the Date

Sunday, November 8, 2015



Are you considered the hostess with the "mostest"? Or maybe you and your co-workers enjoy the best potlucks in town? Or perhaps your restaurant just loves to show off a little every once in a while? If so, entering CASA's 4th Annual

Sips, Eats & Sweets
event is a must!

- ♥ Free Entry Fee for competitors.
- ♥ Each participant and one additional helper may enter event for free.
- ♥ Participants must bring 150 tastings of their entry prepared and ready to serve.
- ♥ A PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD and A CELEBRITY JUDGES AWARD will be given for the winning hors d'oeuvre and the winning sweets dish; a BEST DRESSED TABLE prize will also be awarded.

For more detailed information, contact Maureen at
463-6503, ext. 11 or email
mphillips@mendocinocasa.org



Ambitious



Survivor

