

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

Alert - New Board Members will GET STARTED in June! – Alert

Volume 8, Number 3

About SaySo, Inc.

SaySo is a statewide association of youth aged 14 to 24 who are or have been in North Carolina's out-of-home care system. This includes all types of substitute care, including foster care, group homes, and mental health placements.

Our mission is to work to improve the substitute care system by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to youth who are or have been in substitute care.

Become a Member!

If you are interested in joining **SaySo**, let us know! E-mail or write us with the following information: your name, birthdate, and address (including e-mail), region and the kind of out-of-home placement you are or have been in.

Contact Information

SaySo, Inc.
c/o ILR, Inc.
411 Andrews Rd., Ste. 230
Durham NC 27705
Phone: 800/820-0001
Fax: 919/384-0338
Web Site: www.saysoinc.org
Email: sayso@ilrinc.com

Officers

Co-chairs: Curtina K. and
Cherish C.
Secretary: Jackie S.
Treasurer: Britney M.
Sergeant-at-arms: Shelby E..

Page Program was "AMAZING!"

Fourteen SaySo pages worked very hard in Raleigh from May 7 - 11th on behalf of all North Carolina foster youths! SaySo was recognized twice in the Senate, met Representative Tricia Cotham from Charlotte (who listened to the pressing issues from the voices of SAYSO), and learned that our policy makers really are interested in what they have to say. SaySo pages were professional and made a difference! Travis said, "I've worked before but this was real work!" Their presence made a difference too. We have so many "SaySo Friends" elected to office and the list is growing! Go to the website for more pictures and information!



"This is an amazing experience. I learned a lot and really enjoyed everything! I encourage everyone once in their lifetime to be a page!" - Jackie

"I loved being a Senate page! The legislators are so kind and gracious. I hope I come back again. The host family was great too! You will love government if you come ready to seize the day!" - Bill

"Patience can help you in the long run." - Dwayne

"This was a great experience!" - Austin

"This was an amazing experience that I could not have ever imagined that I would have!" - Lacy

"I learned a lot and enjoyed myself thoroughly!" - Emily

"Governor's page is a nice experience & you should try it.

It's also fun!" - Trenese

"This is for hard work, big decisions, strong people, NO ONE can give up." - Caitlyn

"I had the farthest walk but at least I got good legs" - Shelby



EARN Money and Get On Your Way!

Earn \$60 for exploring the website: www.onyourway.org. If you participated during the first phase, you can do it again... ONLY this time, the site has been redesigned and is easier to use.

Get signed up today to get ON YOUR WAY!

Email Debbie.cornell@ilrinc.com or call her at 800-820-0001



Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

47 People SURVIVED!



SaySo Survivor II was a weekend of fun, campfires, s'mores, horseback riding, canoeing, and learning many ways to move from surviving to **THRIVING!** Youth members identified their resiliencies and displayed them through banners, song, poetry, and skits. A range of "talents" were displayed. Check out our scrapbook on the website. Those banners made an awesome display at the Legislative Building on May 8th! SaySo was the most popular booth at Foster and Adoption Awareness Day! Great job!



Board Member Contact:

Region 1

Cherish- Co-Chair

fairylove8426@hotmail.com

Britney- Treasurer

brit691@hotmail.com

Jackie

jmsparks15@yahoo.com

Region 2

No representation at this time.

Region 3

Shelby- Sgt. At Arms

[Redheadedsweetie92@yahoo.com](mailto:redheadedsweetie92@yahoo.com)

Region 4

Peaches

peaches_sanders@yahoo.com

Muhammad

Martian_afonaut1134@yahoo.com

Curtina- Co-Chair

Tinabell12@hotmail.com

Brittney

Sugarsmack94@yahoo.com

Region 5

No representation at this time.

Region 6

No representation at this time.

Executive Director

Nancy

Nancy.carter@ilrinc.com

SaySo On-Line Community!

Once our online community is up, we all can stay in touch via the web site. Only registered members can participate. We plan to have three community forums with polls, topics for feedback, suggestions for improvement and just a place for suggestions on jobs, schools, housing, and other daily issues.

If you would like a little bit of your life story on the web site, email a paragraph or two with your first name only and age to sayso@ilrinc.com We are hoping to have a few stories that we can feature so our members know they have support and are not alone.

Please keep checking the web site for new information. <http://www.saysoinc.org>

Up and Coming SaySo Events



- **SaySo Orientation (for current and new board members)** - June 12 - 14 in Pinehurst. New board members will GET STARTED. If you haven't received your information packet, email sayso@ilrinc.com or call Nancy 800-820-0001.
- **LINK UP Youth Conference** - July 26 in Statesville at Mitchell Community College. This is a life skills conference for youths 13 -16 years old. SaySo Board members facilitate the games and fun! Registration forms available on the web site - <http://www.saysoinc.org> or call 800-820-0001.

