

# Having Our Say

*The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out*

Volume 13 Number 2 (03/12)

## Become a Member!

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

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This Month's Inspirational Quote: *"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up". Vince Lombardi, NFL Coach*

## SaySo Members: Find Your Purpose

*Written by: Nancy Carter, Executive Director*

SaySo celebrated its 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 3, 2012 at what we like to call the largest family reunion in NC—SaySo Saturday! SaySo Saturday is always held the first Saturday in March at GTCC in Jamestown. Keep this in mind as you move out on your own, go to college, and become official alumni.

As I welcomed people to the conference I reminded them of why SaySo started and how, year by year, young people just like you are reclaiming their voices: speaking out at CFT's, transition planning meetings, court hearings, and school meetings. Young people are speaking to policy makers about how life in foster care is different than their non-foster care friends and how the system can be improved. AND people are listening! It was always that way! I challenged SaySo members, and I'm asking you find your purpose and use your talents. Maybe your talents and strengths can help to further the mission of SaySo and create a "System of Change." Join the voices that are creating change. Change is important, not only for you but for your siblings and those who will come after you. The only way to make improvements is to speak out. We need to hear from young people. In SaySo we believe you should not whine about the problems; become part of the solution. Be the change. Create that change. And then, see the change! It all starts with you!



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## Good News!

*-Here is this month's good news:*

*Congratulations to Titianna G. Titianna made the Dean's List at St. Augustine College in her Fall Semester. We are so very proud of you!*

*Look who's going to UNC Charlotte!*

*Damonique L., SaySo Board of Director has been accepted to UNC Charlotte. Damonique is an outstanding Board of Director and we know she will represent well in her new journey! Wonderful work Damonique!*

If you're getting ready for college, let us know and we will give you a shout out in our next newsletter!



## SaySo Staff

**Executive Director:** Nancy Carter

**Program Coordinator:** Lauren Zingraff

**Assistant Program Coordinator:**  
Chaney Stokes

To find out more information about this new law, please visit [www.saysoinc.org](http://www.saysoinc.org)!

Follow us on Facebook:  
Search "SaySo Speaks Out"

## Other SaySo Saturday News...

Three new chapters (in Gaston, Iredell, and Randolph counties) were also inducted; we now have 24 local chapters across North Carolina. Lunch was sponsored again by the Fenwick Foundation. SaySo Saturday ended with the election of a youth Board of Directors for 2012-13. The following 20 directors were elected:

REGION 1: Kelley T., David R., Lora E., and Charles H.

REGION 2: Shaquanda G., Christopher W., and Sarah F.

REGION 3: Corae H., Ladajah H., Tressina J.

REGION 4: Damonique L., Mahdi K., Erica F., Marcella M.

REGION 5: Shanita G., Megan H., and Shatequa W.

REGION 6: Princess H., Marie S., Kristen B.

The 2012-13 board will attend a three-day leadership training retreat in June which will include a ropes course. A commissioning ceremony will conclude the retreat as board members accept their one-year term to serve and represent all foster youths in North Carolina. During the year, you can see, meet and speak with your Board representatives at a variety of youth conferences such as LINK-Up and It's My Transition. Be sure to ask them how you can get more involved too.

They'll also participate in a variety of projects in collaboration with SaySo partners and the state LINKS program. Members plan to attend and facilitate a workshop at the National Independent Living Association's annual "Growing Pains" Conference scheduled for September in Atlanta.



**Ways to Get Involved (visit [www.saysoinc.org](http://www.saysoinc.org) for more details)**

You do not have to be on the board of directors to be involved in SaySo. We have many partners around the state who frequently ask to have young people participate in their activities. You could also participate in Page week, join the "Raise the Age" campaign, attend SaySo Survivor, become a SaySo Regional Assistant, join or start a local chapter, and speak to local policy makers about how to improve the lives of young people in substitute care. There are numerous ways to get involved. Then you can best create your own personal "System of Change."

***SaySo appreciates our wonderful Adult Supporters!!!***