

Visit our website! WWW.SAYSOINC.ORG

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

SaySo Saturday was a huge success!!!!

Volume 6, 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, age, 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.
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Web Site: www.saysoinc.org
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Officers

Co-chairs: Peaches S.
Jessica W.
Secretary: LaKisha T
Treasurer: Julia S.
Sergeant-at-arms: Dayshawn M.

On Saturday March 5, over 135 young people and their adult supporters came together at Guilford Technical Community College to celebrate youth leadership, discuss issues relevant to foster teens, and SaySo's Seventh birthday. A special guest, Senator Larry Shaw from Cumberland County, visited SaySo members. Senator Shaw spoke with the youth about the impact that the SaySo Pages had on the General Assembly, particularly the Senate. Senator Shaw encouraged all the youth to continue to do good things, stay in school, and attend college. Senator Shaw commented that given all the positive things members were doing, "You deserve our (General Assembly and citizens of North Carolina) help." His comments evoked a standing ovation. Both youths and adults attended workshops on Influencing public policy, SaySo Page Week, public speaking, the expectations of being a SaySo Board member and Make a Difference Day.



Meet your 2005-2006 Board of Directors

Region 1: Chi-Rese N., Cherish C., Britney M.
Region 2: Melissa R.
Region 3: Hollyanne N., Laura S., Shannon C.
Region 4: Curtina K., Vivian J., Peaches S.
Region 5: Dionna B., Antwan B., Ashley W.
Region 6: Kandus S., Daniel S., LaKisha T

The new and existing boards will meet on June 10-12 for their Orientation Weekend, adventure program, goal setting, training and election of officers.

We would like to wish a "Happy Birthday" to the our local chapters:



Moore - 4 years	Wake - 3 years
Caldwell - 3 ½ years	Guilford - 2 ½ years
Mecklenburg - 3 ½ years	Onslow - 1 Year
Cumberland - 3 years	Catawba - 6 months

If you are interested in starting your own SaySo Local Chapter please contact us. It's easy and will make a big difference in youths preparing themselves for adult life. Call today for a Start Up Kit!!



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Are you looking for college money?

If so, you need to know about ETV

The North Carolina Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program offers grants to foster youth and former foster youth to attend **colleges, universities, and vocational training institutions**. Students may receive up to \$5000 a year for four years as they pursue higher education. The funds may be used for tuition, books or qualified living expenses related to post-secondary education.

- The student must have aged out of the foster care at age 18 or been adopted from foster care with adoption finalization after their 16th birthday.
- They must be under the age of 21 to enter the program.
- They must be enrolled in or have been accepted into an accredited college or vocational training program.

Additional program information and an online application are available at: www.statevoucher.org

SaySo Inc. was recognized by USA Weekend for our “Give A Child A Smile” project. SaySo, Inc., will sponsor “Give a Child a Smile” for Make a Difference Day 2005 on October 22. Be sure to look for more information and ways to help give everyone in foster care a suitcase. Check our website for details.



SaySo wants to support TRANSITIONING YOUTHS!

Attend our Mentoring informational session on Saturday, May 14th 10:30 - 2:30 PM at SaySo Headquarters. Lunch will be provided! Call for directions and to reserve your spot! 1-800-820-0001

SaySo and Independent Living Resources are coordinating an ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM especially for youth as they transition out of care towards adult life. We are looking for youth who are getting ready for that BIG STEP and would like the support of a mentor. NOT just any mentor... someone who was also in foster care and made the same transition. Maybe you are a youth making the transition or know an alumnus who would make an awesome mentor. If so, could you let us know?? Call, email or write us - we are ready to help connect youths and alumni in the same community. This is a start up program so we really need your input and suggestions to make it work.