

STAND IN THE GAP'S

Life Launch

EMPOWERING OKLAHOMA'S AT-RISK YOUNG ADULTS

THE PROBLEM

Within two years of leaving foster care,



6 out of 10 youth will be homeless, incarcerated, or dead.

Pew Research

7 out of 10 girls who age out of foster care



will be pregnant before they turn 21.

National Foster Youth Institute

THE PROGRAM

Life Launch was created to fulfill the biblical mandate to care for orphans. We believe the orphans of our time are youth aging out of the foster care system and other at-risk young adults. The Life Launch goal is to interrupt the cycle of abandonment, disruption, and poverty through small group, mentorship relationships. Life Launch small groups invest in the lives of at-risk youth so they develop healthy self-esteem, begin to have hope in their futures, and seek to be self sufficient.

our method



youth client



2+ volunteers



3+ hours per month



one year commitment

Our growing impact



51 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN LIFE LAUNCH SMALL GROUPS
60 MORE YOUNG ADULTS RECEIVED OTHER SUPPORT FROM LIFE LAUNCH STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS.

OUR PARTNERS

Life Launch has formal partnerships with various group homes, churches, and youth service agencies in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. These partnerships facilitate our ongoing relationships with at-risk youth and volunteers and provide the young adults we serve with the best possible continuum of care.



THE RESULTS

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP, "RESEARCH FINDS THAT

resilient youth

—THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION FROM RISK-FILLED BACK
GROUNDS TO THE ADULT WORLD OF WORK AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP—

ARE CONSISTENTLY DISTINGUISHED BY THE PRESENCE OF A

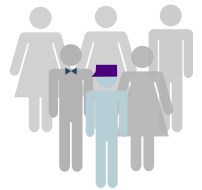
caring adult
IN THEIR LIVES."

LIFE LAUNCH PARTNERED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAM.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS SHOW STATISTICALLY
SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN

youth self-esteem.

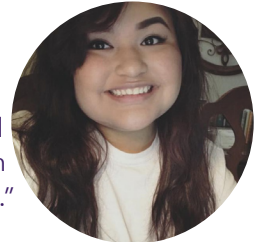
ALL OTHER WELL-BEING VARIABLES ALSO IMPROVED.



A Few Snapshots of Success

No relationship with her biological mother // Homeless // Now living at Branch 15 transitional living home // Steadily employed // Learning to drive // Baptized // "For the first time, I'm excited for my birthday."

Makayla



Isaiah

Homeless after a failed adoption in Detroit // Struggles with cerebral palsy // Recruited into the drug trade and then abandoned // Now calls the men on his Life Launch team "father figures" // Finishing high school // Dreams of being a correctional officer

Jordan

Failed adoption due to abuse // Maintains relationship with Life Launch small group 2+ years after one year commitment expired // Graduated from high school // Baptized // Earned her driver's license // Seen as a leader for other young women in foster care



Kyla

Abuse survivor and teenage mother // Found "a place to belong" in her Life Launch small group // Graduated from high school // Baptized // Married to a responsible Christian man // Restored relationships with her extended family

Malik

Emancipated himself from his mother after years of "paranoid relocations" // Completed his high school degree at Tulsa Hope Academy and went on to Tulsa Technology Center to study Surgical Technology // Put himself through school by working full-time // Bought his own car // Calls his Life Launch team his "support system"



Neikelle

Abuse survivor // Attends life.church regularly with her mentors // Finishing her senior year through EPIC // Got her own apartment // Earned her driver's license // Aspires to be a social worker