



## VOLUNTEER YOUTH SPONSOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Position Description

A *Youth Sponsor* is a trained and screened volunteer who is willing to commit to a youth. They will serve as a steady consistent support to youth 13 - 24 years of age that have been in foster care without a permanent placement, multiple placements, or who are close to or are aging out and for whom adoption is no longer wanted or a viable choice. Youth Sponsors are a caring, supportive adult who is in it for the long haul, willing to guide and nurture the youth. The sponsor works with the young adult to focus on positive youth development, youth driven activities and the development of core competencies (decision-making, problem solving, how to access services). A youth sponsor will serve to provide:

- A stable adult to provide guidance
- A positive role model
- A connection to other clinical and support services
- A source of happiness
- A guide to improving the life of the child
- A support system, attending permanency planning meetings and vital school/educational meetings to ensure the youth's needs are being met

### Example Duties

1. Engage in group events with other sponsors and youth
2. Talk with the matched child to assess interests and needs
3. Be available and responsive to youth, and follow up as determined
4. Explore interests and identify opportunities for the child to develop and grow
5. Continue contact with the child regularly (at least twice monthly)
6. Continue contact with the family, social workers, and others, as necessary
7. Bring significant changes to the manager's attention
8. Be a positive and consistent presence in the life of the child.

### Requirements and Expectations of a Youth Sponsor

1. Complete application process and background check
2. Complete 40 hour pre-service training
3. Have regular access to a car
4. Be 21 years or older
5. Have basic computer skills
6. Maintain strict confidentiality
7. Participate in in-service training
8. Update Volunteer Coordinator monthly or as significant events occur