



Wrapping gifts for the homeless

“Since I’ve been living with the parents I live with now, I’ve been going to this pro-gram called FAN (Fihankra Akoma Ntoaso). It means a safe environment. And it is a place where you can meet new people that are like your second family. You get help with your homework or any-thing that you’re working on, play activities with the other kids, get snack, and basically have a good time outside of your home and school. I’ve been enrolled in this program since I was 12 and they are like a second family to me. Now that I am a senior in high school they are helping me with my life after high school such as: finding a college or something good after high school, help me find a job, or help me with my SAT prep and things of that nature. FAN is a great organization to be in while in high school or in a foster home because all the people there are very nice and they communicate very well with the children.”

– FAN Participant, age 17, Testimony before DC City Council

Who We Are

About Us

FAN stands for Fihankra Akoma Ntoaso. In the Akan culture of West Africa, the Fihankra is a communal housing compound which symbolizes a “safe enclosure” or “safe house.” Akoma Ntoaso means “linked hearts,” and is a symbol of understanding and agreement. Many young people do not have access to such safe environments, which are critical to their development.

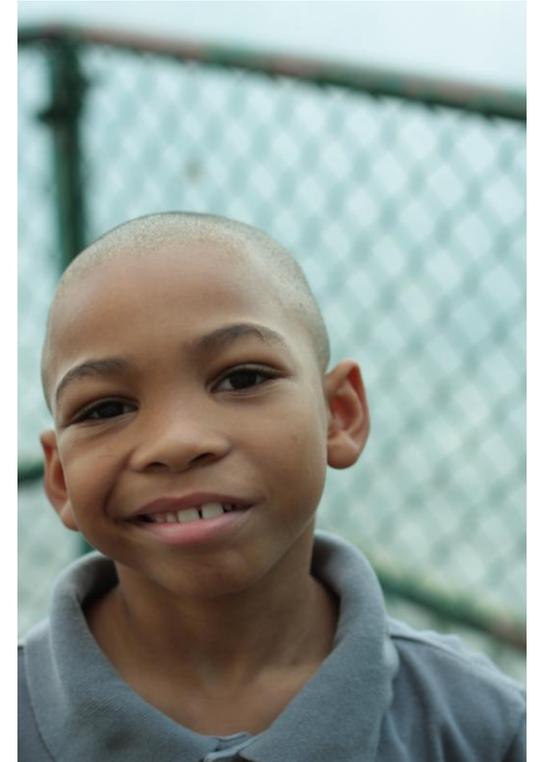
FAN’s goal is to bring a Positive Youth Development perspective to Washing-ton, DC youth in foster care that pro-vides young people with formal and informal opportunities to nurture their interests and talents, acquire new skills, and gain a sense of personal and group recognition in an atmosphere of hope. Most importantly, FAN has been “home” and “family” for the young people that we serve for the last nine years, for many offering the most consistent home and family that they have known.

Mission Statement

FAN’s mission is to cultivate a focus on the well-being and positive development of youth in an environment infused with safety, security, and love.



FAN
3301 Wheeler Rd SE LL
Washington, DC 20032



BOARD PROSPECTUS



Join our Leadership Team!

Would you like to have a leading role—to make a difference—in helping a small, but powerful and proven organization make a bigger difference in the lives of children in D.C.?

We'd like to invite you to be a part of this dynamic leadership team that will steward the organization to a greater level of sustainability.

FAN seeks board partners who will act as champions on our journey to sustainability and help the organization to achieve its full potential. We have a unique opportunity to create the type of board experience that will be shining example for the non-profit community in DC. We hope you will join us in this endeavor, and help change the course of young peoples' lives.

Key Roles & Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

- Guide the mission and direction of the organization in partnership with the Executive Director.
- Contribute to the strategic goal-setting, budgeting, and resource allocation processes.
- Support the organization's fundraising and community relations efforts.
- Oversee the implementation of the organization's policies and programs.
- Attend Board meetings and actively participate in discussion and committee-led efforts.

FAN seeks board members who bring one or more of the following:

- Ready, willing, and able to contribute financially
- An understanding of non-profit finance
- Marketing Skills
- Fundraising experience
- Political Connections
- Business Connections
- Understanding of the legal system
- Membership in a faith community
- From a broad range of ages and life experiences

Above all, passionate about youth in foster care from personal experience



Summer Program Photography Class

Organizational Stats

Youth Served: 100 and counting

Staff: 1 ED, 1 Program Director

Volunteers: 30-40 individuals per year

Board Members: 4, recruiting underway

Board Meetings: 6 per year, bi-monthly

Advisory Board Members: 6

Annual Budget: \$200,000

Giving Policy: 50% give/50% get annually

Programs

Since 2006, FAN has provided a daily after school and summer youth development program to over 100 teens in foster care that incorporates academic support, extracurricular instruction, community service, leadership development, and college and career preparation.

Unique Strengths

- Distinct focus on teens in foster care.
- Long-term commitment to participants (e.g., college prep, support during family transition).
- Serves youth in foster care holistically through multiple activities linked to positive outcomes.
- Youth who are unsuccessful in other community settings can experience success at FAN.