



www.celebrationofexcellence.org

Interfaith Community “Celebration of Giving” Appeal to Help Foster Youth *Support 20 foster youth by donating gift cards.*

The Interfaith Children’s Movement and Gift for a Child, Inc. are partnering to honor Georgia foster youth graduating from high school and college this year by providing \$25 gift cards to these youth during the Celebration of Excellence graduation. This year, the celebration will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 13, 2012, at the Georgia State Rialto. We are asking the interfaith community to join us in recognizing the academic accomplishments of these foster youth by donating gift cards during our **20 Days of Giving** campaign, in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the *Celebration of Excellence* and the month of May as *National Foster Care Month*. The gift cards should be collected between May 1 and May 31. We encourage you to involve youth in your faith community--inviting them to work together to create a “gift box” in which your members, parishioners, congregants can place gift card donations.

Helping graduating foster youth prepare for life is an investment that provides many rewards. Your support for these youth can help them successfully transition to adulthood. We recognize the obstacles that foster youth face as young adults:

1. Only 50% of foster youth will graduate from high school.
2. 30% of foster youth will be homeless within a year of graduating from high school.
3. One out of every 10 foster youth will enroll in college.

From May 1 through May 31, 2012, please consider hosting a special **20 Days of Giving** offering. We invite you to involve your entire faith community. Throughout this campaign period, representatives from Celebration of Excellence, as well as foster youth alumni, will be available to speak to your congregation about the need and ways that you can help.

Please consider being part of the Celebration of Giving by sponsoring 20 gift cards each in \$25 increments. Our goal is to collect 400 gift cards by June 1, 2012. The gift cards should be from merchants such as Wal-Mart or Target where the graduates can purchase food, clothing or other basic needs.

About the Celebration of Excellence:

The Celebration of Excellence is an annual graduation event and scholarship program hosted by community partners to recognize the educational achievements of youth in Georgia’s foster care system who are graduating from high school, GED programs, vocational school, or college. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of this event, we couldn’t think of a better way to serve foster youth than by focusing on a **20 Days of Giving** appeal. Please contact Pamela Perkins Carn, Interfaith Children’s Movement, at 770-498-2141 / perkinspl@bellsouth.net for more information.



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CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE ("COE") GIFT CARD DONATION

- A. Our faith community, _____, held a special COE Gift Card offering on _____ and raised _____ dollars for Georgia's graduating foster care youth.
- B. Our faith community, _____, held a COE Gift Card Campaign from _____ to _____ and raised _____ dollars for Georgia's graduating foster care youth.
- C. Our faith community, _____, is donating _____ number of gift cards in \$25 increments for Georgia's graduating foster care youth for the COE Gift Card Campaign.
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FAITH COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Faith Community: _____

Primary COE Campaign Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Make your check payable to our fiscal agent for the Celebration of Excellence gift card program:

*Gift for a Child, Inc.
(for Celebration of Excellence)*

Please mail your completed form and check/gift cards by May 31, 2012 to:

*Gift for a Child, Inc.
c/o Celebration of Excellence
10945 State Bridge Road
Alpharetta, Georgia 30022*