

**C**hild Advocates of Fort Bend has two specialized staff members dedicated to supervising volunteers and youth who are involved in the WINGS program. The WINGS team collaborates with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to enhance the transition planning process known as youth led Circle of Support meetings.

The implementation of the WINGS program and collaboration with community and state partners has improved outcomes for youth transitioning out of the foster care system.



*"A goal without a plan is just a wish"*  
-Antoine de Saint-Exupery



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wings project



*The goal:*

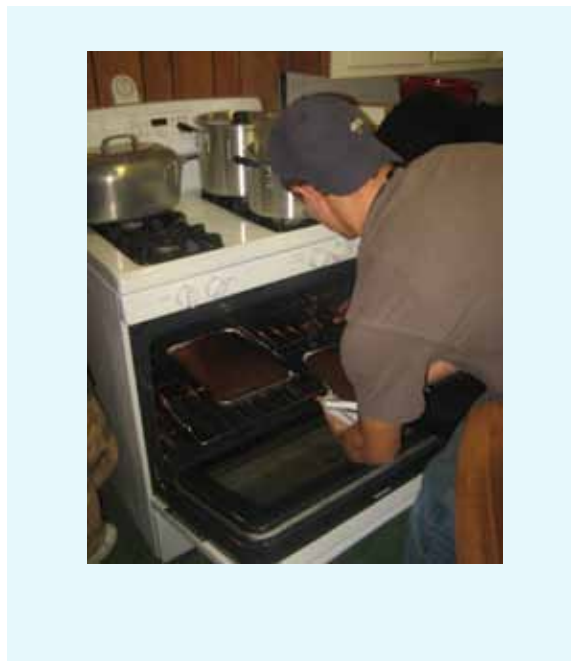
To empower youth so that they will be better equipped to successfully live on their own when they transition from the foster care system.

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**C**hild Advocates of Fort Bend County launched the WINGS program in 2005 to better equip CASA volunteers to prepare foster youth, ages 14 and older, for the transition from the foster care system to independence. This program is based upon the belief that there are three critical components to making that transition successful: education, connections with caring adults, and developing a realistic plan for the future. Achieving these fundamental steps improves the chances of these youth finding the path to a thriving and productive adulthood.



**P**articipating youth are provided with the opportunity to attend WINGS Life Skills trainings where they learn how to interview for a job, manage a budget, rent an apartment, purchase and/or lease a car, open a checking account, and visit local businesses to learn about different fields of work. Expanding the learning environment beyond the classroom setting has definitely worked well and continues to prove that hands on learning and training are effective.



**T**hese youth also participate in WINGS Campus Crawls to visit post secondary education sites. WINGS instructors and trained volunteers accompany the youth to and from different college campuses across the state of Texas where they participate in financial aid and admissions workshops. The youth are able to experience college life by visiting the campuses and interacting with college students. Youth are also provided with the opportunity to participate in community service projects and receive volunteer hours.