



Mission. Vision. About Us.

*Join us on our journey to bridge the gap for orphaned and aged-out foster youth
Scholarships for Higher Education • Mentoring • Leadership Training*

Mission

To provide mentoring, leadership training, and scholarships for a higher education to orphaned and aged-out foster care youth exhibiting leadership potential.

Vision

We envision thousands of orphaned and aged-out foster youth transformed into leaders of influence, thriving professionally and personally, while making a positive impact in communities around the world.

About Us

- International Student Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) Organization, Federal Tax ID# 20-8665417.
- We are a Dallas-based non-profit organization with a local, national, and international presence.
- ISF was founded by two long-standing Dallas area residents, Ben and Deanna Carroll.
- We provide personal mentoring, leadership training, and scholarships for a higher education to orphaned and aged-out foster youth exhibiting leadership potential.
- We provide scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and specialty schools.
- ISF is not supported by state or federal funding, therefore corporate sponsors and private donors are vital to the success of our program.
- Students accepted by ISF have a tremendous desire to succeed and to carve a different path from the one left and lived by their parents. ISF provides a way for their dreams to become a reality and gives them a hand to hold along the way.
- The type of student we support lives with the worry of not having enough money to pay rent, buy food, pay for classes, and purchase books.
It is our goal to lighten these concerns by providing the students with financial assistance that will enable them to focus on their most important goal of obtaining a higher education and graduating with a degree.

What Makes ISF Different?

- When the Carroll's founded and formed ISF it was their passion to not only assist orphaned and aged-out foster youth students financially, but to provide them with the type of emotional support one would typically receive from their parent(s) and family.
- All scholarship recipients are required to take part in our mentoring and leadership training program.
- We provide scholarships for college, graduate school, as well as specialty schools.
- We are Dallas-based with a local, national, and international presence.

Finding the Future - ISF Students

What We Look For & Our Selection Process

- Orphaned and aged-out foster youth who: (1) Have a desire to succeed; (2) Show leadership potential and good character; (3) Are involved in their community.

We look for these specific characteristics in our students because we feel these qualities in particular are among the greatest predictors and indicators that a student will be successful in our program.

- We then make our student selection decisions based on the results of a formal application process that includes personal interviews and reference checks.

Where We Find Them

- We look to organizations and programs that already help our targeted youth in order to find qualified candidates.

How We Help

Scholarships. Mentoring. Leadership Training.

- ISF students receive mentoring, leadership training, and scholarships for higher education.
- Each ISF scholarship recipient enters the mentoring program where they are paired with a personal, one-on-one, volunteer mentor. Once matched, each student receives a commitment of time and attention that is devoted to their personal growth and leadership development.
- The role of our volunteer leadership mentors is to:
 - Develop a trusting relationship
 - Teach, counsel, listen
 - Provide support, advice, and encouragement
 - Guide the student in identifying and solving problems
 - Share life experiences, difficulties, and rewards
- ISF firmly believes that the mentoring component of our program is critical.

This feature of our program is supported by a U.S. Department of Education study that found students who receive mentoring from advisors on a regular basis during their freshman year had 170% greater chance of completing their Bachelor's Degree than those who did not.

Hurdles Faced by Orphaned and Aged-Out Foster Youth Who Would Like to Achieve a Higher Education.

- Orphaned and aged-out foster youth are most typically emancipated from the foster care system at the age of 18 and are sent into the "real world."
- After leaving the foster homes and the system that essentially served "as their family," these youth are suddenly faced with homelessness, dead-end jobs, loneliness, and despair.
- These students have been abandoned, forgotten, and have no family or financial support.

**See Foster Youth Statistics – a Broken System*
included in this packet for further information and statistics.

Visit www.isfsite.org to read our students' powerful stories of courage, bravery, strength, fortitude, perseverance, dedication, and determination in pursuit of realizing their dreams.

Foster Youth Statistics

A Broken System

Studies show that **prison, homelessness, unemployment, dependence on public assistance, and becoming parents at an early age** is the future awaiting youth who age out of the foster care system.

Please join us on *our journey as we bridge the gap for orphaned and aged-out foster youth* through mentoring, leadership training, and scholarships for a higher education.

The following statistics are based on a national level

On Average

- Each year, approximately **20,000 – 30,000 youth age out of the United States foster care system**
 - Approximately 1,500 youth age out of foster care in the state of Texas
 - There are **more than 400,000** kids in America's foster care system
 - The **United States spends** approximately \$8 billion a year on foster care
 - **Youth who emancipate from foster care have been in the system for an average of five years**
-

Education

- **70% of teens who emancipate from foster care report wanting to go to college, yet only 10%-13% attend**
 - Only **1%-3% graduate from college**
*While support for foster youth exists in the form of scholarships and other services, statistics reveal persistent gaps in positive outcomes – **gaps created by a lack of the basic resources** required for college life **and the focused and consistent encouragement of an extended family.***
 - 83% of foster children are held back by the third grade
 - 75% of children and youth in foster care are behind grade level
 - 40% of foster youth complete high school compared to 84% of the general population
-

Employment

- **60%** of youth are **destitute**, earning incomes at or below **\$6,000 per year**
 - By 21 years old, **50%** of aged-out foster **will be unemployed**
-

Homelessness

- **65%** of emancipating foster youth **need immediate housing** when they exit the system
 - **40%-50%** of former foster youth **become homeless** within 18 months of ageing out of the system
-

Incarceration

- **25%** of foster youth will be in **prison within two years** of emancipation
 - **20%** of males who age out of the foster care system become **career criminals** (Costing taxpayers approximately \$4.8 billion over the course of their lifetimes)
 - By 21 years old, **77% of men who have aged out of foster care will be arrested**
-

Pregnancy

- By 21 years old, 71% of women who have aged out of foster care will be pregnant

Mental & Physical Health

- **33%** of all foster care alumni have **no form of health insurance**
- Former foster youth experience Post Traumatic Stress disorder at a rate 2 times the level of U.S. war veterans
- Nearly 50% of foster children suffer from chronic health conditions such as asthma, visual and auditory problems, dental decay and malnutrition

Through no Fault of Their Own

Children are placed in foster care through no fault of their own. They are not given a choice and they have no recourse. Nothing they have done is the cause for this painful and debilitating circumstance.

Most are placed in the system because of neglect by their parents or care givers. They must learn to navigate public agencies, strange adults acting as parents, unfamiliar homes, changing schools, changing neighborhoods and many other challenges adults would find daunting. Siblings are often separated and may never see each other again.

At the age of 18, foster youth must be ready to navigate life on their own without a family or a system to support and guide them. For foster youth, the trauma of losing friends, homes, communities and often siblings, the multiple placements, the disruptions of their education, and the limited access to personal resources leave many of them without the preparation and support needed for independent living.

Non foster youth ages 18-26 who live with their families receive a great deal of financial and emotional support. The California Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego released a report in January 2007 stating that parents provide approximately \$44,500 of financial support to their "adult" offspring in the years between 18 and 26.

ISF's

Students are Super Stars!

Hope. Courage. Bravery. Transformation.

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ISF Students are Defying the Odds From Bachelor's to PhD's They are Super Stars!

With only 10%-13% of emancipated foster youth ever making it to college, **our students are more than defying the odds!**

ISF is proud to share that our 2013-2014 class of students are attending the following universities:

Universities in Texas

- Lamar University
(Beaumont, Texas)
- UT Southwestern
(Dallas, Texas)
- Stephen F. Austin State University
(Nacogdoches, Texas)
- Texas Tech University
(Lubbock, Texas)
- Texas A&M University
(College Station, TX)
- Prairie View A&M University
(Prairie View, Texas)
- Sam Houston State University
(Huntsville, Texas)
- Tarrant County College
(Fort Worth, Texas)
- Lonestar College
(Tomball, Texas)

Universities outside of Texas

- California University of Pennsylvania
(California, Pennsylvania)
- Tabor College
(Hillsboro, Kansas)
- Kean University
(Union, New Jersey)
- University of New Mexico
(Albuquerque, New Mexico)
- Ghana Christian University College
(Adenta, Accra, Ghana)
- Oregon State University
(Corvallis, Oregon)
- Georgetown University
(Washington, DC)
- Simpson College
(Indianola, Indiana)
- Cal Poly Pomona
(Pomona, California)

ISF is proud to share that our 2013-2014 class of students are pursuing degrees in the following areas of study:

Bachelor's Degree

- Architecture
- Business
- Comparative Literature / Spanish
- Culinary
- General Studies
- Kinesiology
- Physiology
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Biology / Chemistry
- Child & Family Studies
- Computer Science
- Education
- Human Development / Family Studies
- Marketing Communications
- Psychology
- Public Relations / Marketing

Master's Degree

- Criminal Justice
- Science Rehabilitation Science
- Occupational Therapy

PhD's

- Plant Science
- Veterinary Medicine

Visit www.isfsite.org to read our students' powerful stories of courage, bravery, strength, fortitude, perseverance, dedication, and determination in pursuit of realizing their dreams.

ISF's Students are Graduates!

Hope. Courage. Bravery. Transformation.

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ISF Students are Defying the Odds They are Graduating!!!

Statistics tell us that only **1%-3% of emancipated foster youth ever graduate from college** largely because of significant *gaps in basic resources required for college life, and the focused and consistent encouragement of an extended family.*

ISF Bridges the Gap and Destinies are Changed. Because of the amazing support we receive from our benefactors, aged-out foster youth in Texas, across the nation, and abroad are given the opportunity to forge a new path and change their destiny to one of a bright, hopeful, and productive future.

Graduates!!!

We are proud to announce that for the 2012 – 2013 academic school year ISF had the joy of seeing dreams realized and destinies changed when several of our youth graduated from the following universities:

Texas

- The University of Texas at Austin (Austin, Texas)
- The University of Texas at Dallas (Dallas, Texas)
- University of Houston (Houston, Texas)

Outside of Texas

- John Tyler Community College (Chester, Virginia)
- Lehman College (Bronx, New York)
- Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia)
- William Patterson University (Wayne, New Jersey)

From Associate's to Master's our Youth Achieved Degrees in:

Accounting, Business Administration/Management, Exercise Science, Global Business, Plant Science Social Work, and Spiritual Counseling.

ISF

The Founders

Ben Carroll, Founder and Chairman

Ben Carroll serves as the Chancellor of SME University. His passion is to empower financial professionals to attract and serve their clients as trusted family financial officers and to help them discover and fulfill their purpose in life. Ben has more than 30 years of industry experience with specialties in leadership, team building, client development and business processes.

Ben earned his Bachelor of Science from Dallas Christian College, graduating Cum Laude and President of his Senior Class. He earned his Master of Science in Human Relations and Management from Abilene Christian University, graduating Magna Cum Laude and has been teaching leadership and professional development since 1984.

He has taught at Southern Methodist University, LeTourneau University, and through the Texas community college system at Brookhaven, Eastfield, Northlake and Collin County Community Colleges, as well as conducting numerous workshops at country clubs and churches in the Dallas area.

Ben and his wife Dee founded the International Student Foundation that provides scholarships, mentoring and leadership training for orphaned and aged-out foster care students. Ben and Dee reside in Granbury, Texas. They have four sons and three grandchildren. Their life is full and their joy comes from Christian service and sharing life with family and friends.

Dee Carroll, Founder

Dee currently serves as the President and Chief Operations Officer of Sovare. Previously, Dee managed a turn-around for an assisted living center owned by her church in Plano, Texas, taking it from 25% occupancy to 100% occupancy with a waiting list in 18 months. Before that Dee managed her own executive suite business, Suite Success, Inc. (SSI) taking it from 4 employees and one location in 1983 to 45 employees and 7 locations in 1998. At the time of her sale in 1998, SSI was the largest executive suite company in the DFW area and at that time had more than 1,200 offices serving over 100 fortune 500 companies.

Dee received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Education, Business and Career Development from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She taught two years at Holdredge High School in Nebraska and was recognized by the State of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska as an outstanding young educator which resulted in the University extending her a fellowship and full scholarship for her business graduate degree.

Dee's passion is to provide the highest quality of support and service in a high integrity environment that fosters maximum enjoyment and success for every member of the community. Dee and her husband Ben founded the International Student Foundation that provides scholarships, mentoring and leadership training for orphaned and aged-out foster care students. Dee and Ben reside in Granbury, Texas. They have four sons and three grandchildren. Their life is full and their joy comes from Christian service and sharing life with family and friends.

ISF

Board of Directors

ISF Founders

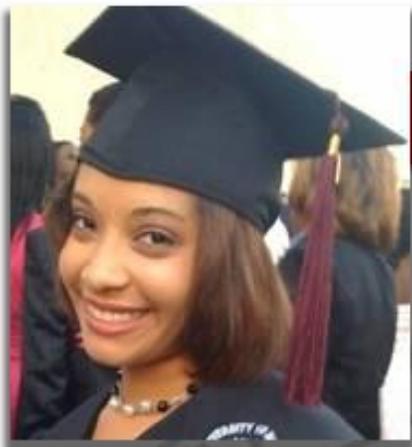
Ben and Deanna Carroll

Founding Directors

Jeff and Toni Bulla
Randal and Cathleen Howard
Greg and Jody Wilk
Steve and Sue Goodner

Board of Directors

Ben and Deanna Carroll
Keith and Debbie Finley
Steve and Sue Goodner
John and Christi Perfetto
William and Laura Mays
Lisa VanValkenburg



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FOUNDATION

PARIS'S STORY

Paris, a California native, was placed in foster care at the age of 2 when her mother was no longer able to care for her. She still remembers two strangers standing at her door asking her to grab her bag of clothes and say goodbye to her mother. Confused and too young to understand, Paris did what she was told, not realizing that this was the last time she would see her mother for a very long time.

Soon afterwards, Paris was moved to a variety of homes until the age of 7 when she was placed with her Aunt and Uncle in Texas. While her relatives did all they could to embrace and support her, Paris still felt alone. She longed for her mother and thought about the day she would see her again. At the age of 18, she graduated from high school and headed to California to find her mother. Unfortunately, the reunion was not what she was expecting. She found her mother living in the fashion district of Los Angeles, homeless, and now ill with schizophrenia. She did not recognize or remember Paris until she said her name. For Paris, reuniting with her mother was the dream she had been hoping for. While their time was brief (her mother passed away three years later), it is a memory that Paris will have forever.

Upon returning to Texas, Paris decided to attend the University of Houston to pursue a degree in Consumer Science and Merchandising with a specialization in Training and Development. In May, 2009 she graduated and then continued to pursue her Masters in Social Work. It was at this time that she was introduced to International Student Foundation. "I had been involved with several other scholarship programs but ISF was different. They were very involved with the students and actively gave of their time and resources. I had never been involved with a program that really focused on developing a relationship with the student. Of all the scholarship programs I was involved in, none of them had a personal mentoring program". When asked what makes the mentoring program so unique, Paris stated "I did not think their program would be a continuous thing. I thought it would be temporary. I was mistaken. During the three years with my mentor, we would meet often, over the phone, and discuss issues that were relevant to me. I could bounce ideas off of her and she would give me unbiased advice. We would discuss personal issues, life's challenges and she would coach me on major decisions. She became a second mom to me and I am grateful for the support I received".

In December, 2012 Paris graduated with her Masters in Social Work and is now working as a purchasing agent with Cameron Measurement Systems. With current cut-backs it has not been easy to enter her field of specialty, but she is actively pursuing opportunities with CPS.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FOUNDATION

JEREMY'S STORY

As a child growing up in a broken home, it was extremely hard for me to create and hold onto healthy relationships. It was very difficult to stay in touch with any school friends or neighbors. Until entering foster care at age 12, I had no idea what a healthy relationship was supposed to look like. I was kidnapped from my mom by my dad at the age of five. For two years I was put through hell. My dad tortured me mentally, physically, and emotionally by not allowing me to eat, sleep, or use the bathroom. If allowed to sleep, I slept on a filthy couch where the dog slept. The "room" they dead bolted me into was a box-filled storage space. My dad's girlfriend drilled holes in the doors so she could spy on me making sure that I did not sit or lay on the floor.

After two years of torture I was finally returned to my mom. When I arrived at my mom's house she was so excited to see me that she would not let me out of her arms. I was just as excited to see her because I was finally away from the abuse; but after just a few good years with my mom, the abuse started again. She became an alcoholic and a prostitute. She would bring home random men on a nightly basis who would verbally abuse me. When drunk she would get mad at me and begin throwing objects such as glass cups, forks, knives and anything else she could get her hands on. Luckily I was able to dodge the objects, but as an eleven-year-old it was scary. She also had a bad habit of driving under the influence, which caused us to get into multiple car accidents. My mom would spend her entire paycheck on alcohol that resulted in us being evicted from our homes and my mom losing her jobs. After losing our last house we moved in with one of my sisters. On my twelfth birthday my mom found a trucker and left for California.

Because of the abuse I was put through as a child I was not able to get close to anyone when I entered foster care. I had a lot of issues when it came to trusting anyone and it was especially hard for me to trust men since all I went through with my dad was two years of bad experiences.

I remember a conversation that I had with my foster mom when I entered the home at age 12. She assured me, unless I chose differently, that I would stay in the same high school all four years. I was very excited to hear this. As time went on my foster mom continuously introduced me to her friends and family. I began trusting people again and was able to feel that I wasn't in danger of losing everything. I never had the ideal family to look up to. That all changed when my foster mom had introduced me to one of her friend's son. Our relationship grew quickly since we were on the same cycling team and since our parents were good friends. We soon became inseparable, and we would spend quite a bit of time at each other's houses. This is where I began noticing what an ideal family was supposed to look like. I looked up to my best friend's dad as the man I should role model. Having that role model really helped me mature.

Entering foster care required me to create my own family - which was surprisingly easy. I quickly became accepting of my situation realizing that where I was in life was where I fit best. I was happy, loved and for once, stable. This was only possible with the support and encouragement that I consistently received from my newfound family. My best friend's family has supported me as if I were one of their own. This support has shaped my values and morals and has heightened my sense of maturity shaping me into the man I am today.