

No Home to Live In
By Finn Burns

Mr. Morris was taken into foster care as a child because his parents were drug addicts which led him to never have a permanent placement, ending up in “night-to-night” foster care. Finally, he was sent out into the world at age eighteen alone with nothing. Unfortunately, we have a system where children aging out of foster care don’t always have a fair chance in life afterwards.

Tens of thousands of children in the foster care system were taken away from their parents after suffering from extreme abuse. 8% of the total child population of the United States is represented by reports of abuse that are shown and proved to authorities annually. This leads them to become foster children. Sometimes children never go back to their parents or find a foster home right for them and end up being constantly moved, and even moved every night, which is what “night-to-night” means.

Foster children are emerging out of foster care everywhere in the country and have nowhere to call home. This often happens to children with disabilities and disorders as they are typically placed in “night-to-night” foster care. Many foster care organizations have fundraisers specifically for children aging out of foster care with no home. Children who never find a foster home are left in a group home or get placed in “night-to-night” foster care which can be extremely overwhelming for young minds. Although many states release 18 year olds into the world, Washington and Iowa have recently joined at least 17 other states, including New York, that allow youths under some circumstances to remain in foster care until age 21. It has also been proven that when children stay in foster care till they are 21, it makes them more successful. When children are released into the world at such a young age and don't have anywhere or anyone to feel safe with they will feel isolated and not welcome throughout their life, not to mention end up immediately homeless.

Adults seem to be okay with the system as it is, so is the younger generations’ duty to make a change. These young adults aging out of foster care need our help. You can get involved directly and receive training over a number of months. If this is not an option, the least we can do is donate money and use our voices to spread awareness about the children in foster care, like Mr Morris, who just want a fair shot at life.

Works cited

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Children’s Rights- Samantha Bartos

