

Catalyst

Wilderness Therapy Program

<http://www.catalystwilderness.org/>

Excerpts from "We are Abandoning Children in Foster Care" (2014, April 17) by Rita Soronen retrieved from <http://www.cnn.com>

In preparation for Foster Care Awareness month in May, news articles are appearing to raise awareness to a situation that Catalyst lives all year.

(CNN) – "In 2012 in the United States, 23,439 children in foster care turned 18 and were "emancipated" or "aged out." In simple terms, most of them were put out into the world on their own without housing, financial assistance or emotional support."

Each year the percentage of young adults aging out of foster care increases. Yet resources available to them remain grossly limited.

"These are children who were neglected or abused by parents -- physically or sexually or both -- so egregiously that a judge permanently severed the parents' rights to claim the children as their own."

Once these children are removed from their homes they are placed in facilities or foster care families and moved frequently. They live without the consistency of loving care and withstand constant interruptions to their education.

"Because we know that children thrive in families -- not institutions or transient, temporary care -- we made a promise to those children. We promised the day they were permanently separated from their families that we would find them new ones. A place to call home, to be loved, supported and cherished, as every child should. We failed 23,439 children last year, and legally emancipated them from care. This world is not an easy place for children to grow and thrive on their own. Too often it is not even safe place."

Catalyst's sole mission is to support those we failed. Youth aging out of foster care are forced to navigate an unsure world without the guidance of a supportive family. Catalyst provides the skills they need to survive and hopefully thrive.

To read the entire article, go to:

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/16/opinion/soronen-foster-children/>



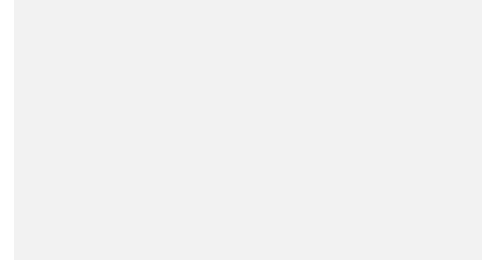
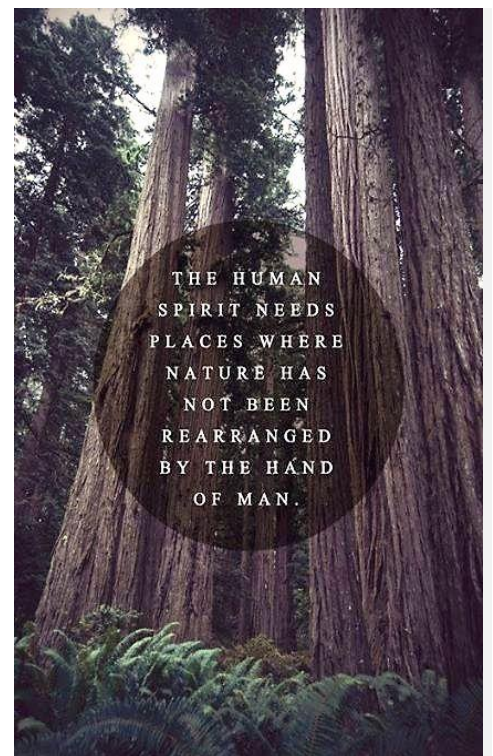
Highlights

Article from CNN

May 8, Fundraiser

"ReMoved"

Progress Report



“ReMoved”

“ReMoved” directed by Nathanael Matanick, written and produced by Christina Matanick, is a short film created to raise awareness around foster parent education. It is the story of a 10-year-old girl doing her best to raise her younger brother and herself in an abusive home. Typical of children in this circumstance she is forced into responsibilities far beyond her years. The film shows her as worn and exhausted under the weight of her school-work, house-work, and care of her baby brother. She lives in terror of her unpredictable and explosive parents. When she sits for her school portrait it is clear from her bruised and cut face that she is anything but the image of a happy, carefree child.




When she is removed from her home by social services it is not a relief but another moment of terror as her brother is taken from her as well. “It seems like the same thing that held me up forced me down. The world turned upside down and order disappeared. Nothing was how it was supposed to be. A heavy sadness filled my soul.” With her very few possessions packed in a garbage bag, she is taken to a foster home where she is misunderstood and mistreated. Like so many youth placed in care, their new situations are potentially as bad as the ones from which they are removed.

Again, Social Services is called to take her to yet another home. This time a loving foster mother is waiting for her, ready to give the attention and love she so desperately needs. But, she is a child who has learned from experience that adults are not to be trusted. So, she pushes and tests hoping to be proved wrong. “I know I’m helpless, dependent, desperate, but what happens when those you need the most threaten your very existence? I’ve heard plenty of promises and they all sound the same. If I push hard enough and sooner or later they all prove to be empty.” With a ray of hope, she is proved wrong. Instead of a call to Social Services this foster mother understands her behavior stems from justified mistrust and fear. This foster mother knows children are placed in care not by their own actions. Instead of taking the rejection personally, she calls for her baby brother to be brought to their home.

“This, my past, my history, my story, is not my fault. It’s not because of me and doesn’t have to be what defines my future. I am lovable, I am worthy of care, and that glimmer of light, it makes all the difference. The glimmers of light give me hope that someday my summer will come.”

Every child has the right to be cared for even when they act through fear. When foster parents are prepared for the challenges ahead they will have a better chance of being just what these children need.

To watch this moving film, go to: <http://vimeo.com/73172036>





**You are invited to
Catalyst's Inaugural
Reach the Trailhead Fundraiser!**


Please join us for a no-host bar of locally-crafted liquors, light refreshments, compelling speakers, a Silent Auction, and an exciting Raffle — all in support of Catalyst's critical work to provide clinically sound preventative, intervention and transition services for teenagers in foster care.

Tickets are \$40
Please RSVP by April 18 at goo.gl/1Ufi4U

PLEASE JOIN US:
Thursday, May 8
7 pm to 10 pm
New Deal Distillery
900 SE Salmon



SPONSORSHIP PROVIDED BY:  **LANE POWELL**
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

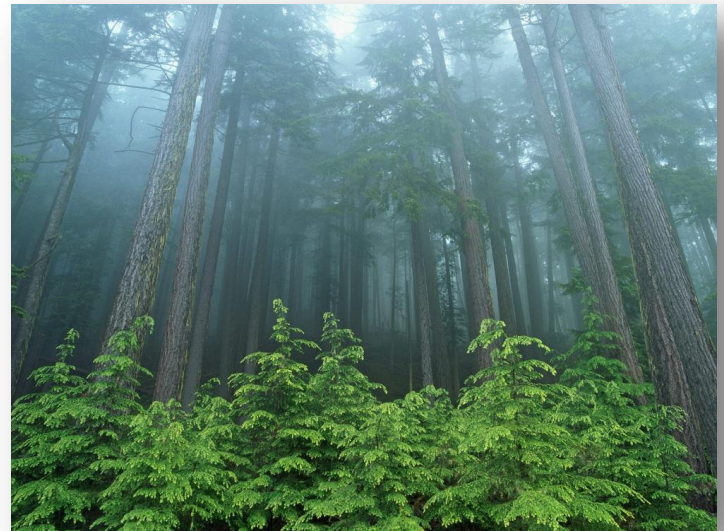
EVENT HOSTED BY: 


**Don't forget to RSVP for the
Reach the Trailhead Fundraiser
Through Eventbrite by going to:
goo.gl/1Ufi4U**

The Progress Report

Each month there are so many exciting happenings to report that we thought we would add a section to the newsletter called, The Progress Report. Thank you for sharing and celebrating our growth!

- ✓ PCC has chosen a student to work on our Kickstarter video. Footage release is planned for this summer.
- ✓ Our first grant submissions were sent to Pacific Continental Bank, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, and the Jackson Foundation.
- ✓ We received more in kind donations of gear and clothing totaling a savings of over \$2000.00!
- ✓ We received word from DHS-Oregon that our child care providing license has been approved pending proof of program insurance. Over a dozen individuals from our program staff and board donated over 300 hours of time, work, and talent to complete our licensing materials including our employee handbook, instructor handbook, field operations systems admissions system, clinical systems!





**INTENTIONAL OUTDOOR
PROGRAMMING TO SUPPORT
& EMPOWER THE NEXT
GENERATION**

Providing clinically sound preventative, intervention, and transition services for teenagers in foster care



NOT JUST ANOTHER DONATION

Help fund a successful lifetime

www.CatalystWilderness.org