



Unity Care's

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

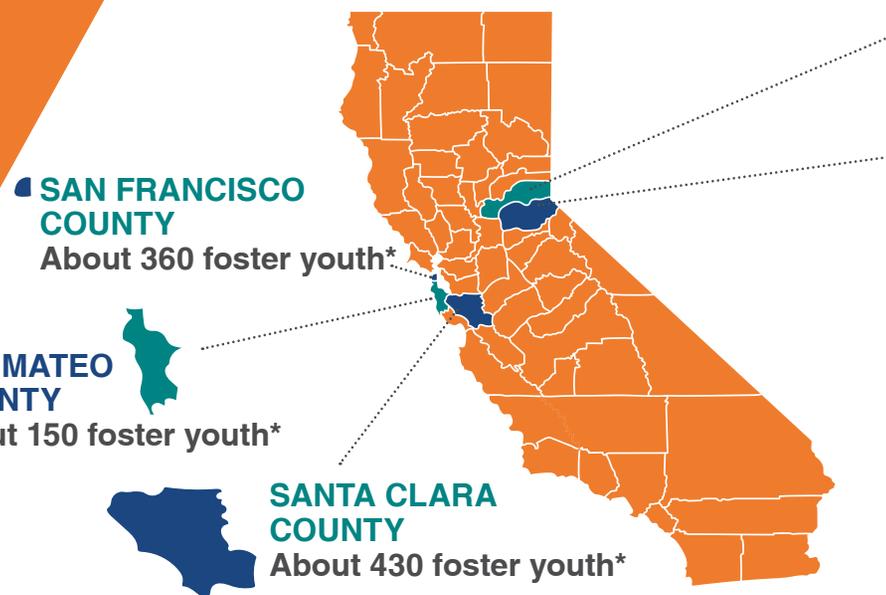
Reducing homelessness for foster youth turning 18

We believe every youth leaving foster care at 18 deserves a safe and secure place to live.

Housing is the most pressing need of youth turning 18 and exiting foster care. Without housing, no one can be stable.

WHERE WE ARE

There are over **1,000*** transitional age youth in foster care in the counties Unity Care serves: El Dorado, Placer, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara.



Unity Care provides housing for approximately 150 youth between the ages of 18 and 24.



EL DORADO COUNTY
About 80 foster youth*

PLACER COUNTY

About 90 foster youth*



Without safe, affordable housing...

- Less than **3%** will graduate from college
- **25%** will be incarcerated by age of 24
- More than **two-thirds** will not be able to secure a job
- **1 in 4** transitional aged youth will experience PTSD

*"Think about your home. That's your warm place. That's your safe place. Imagine not knowing where you're going to stay. It really messes with your head. You can lose hope."
— Jasmine*

40%
OF FOSTER
YOUTH
EXPERIENCE
HOMELESSNESS

*Webster, D., et al. Child Welfare Services Reports for California, U.C. Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jun. 2016); Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center (Jul. 2016).

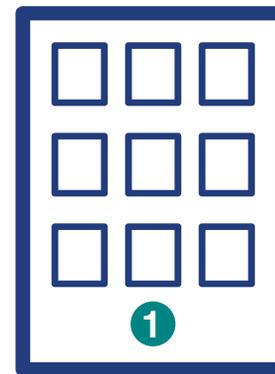
OUR PURPOSE

Every youth leaving foster care at age 18 deserves the opportunity to have a bright future. Unity Care exists to protect them, keep them safe, and give them love, hope and inspiration to accomplish their goals and fulfill their dreams.

The path to a bright future and independent living cannot occur without stable housing.



93% of Unity Care youth have obtained safe, stable, and secure housing in 2016–2017.



Dorm-Style Living

Foster youth turning 18, with no place to call home and no place to go



Shared Housing



Independent Living

1 Dorm-Style Living Capacity

58 → 108 youth

2 Shared Housing Capacity

40 → 90 youth

3 Independent Living Capacity

52 → 102 youth

OUR HOUSING CONTINUUM

Unity Care provides supportive housing to foster youth when they turn 18. We offer housing options that provide increased levels of independent living as they gain skills for self-sufficiency.

Our housing continuum starts with:

- **Dorm-Style Living**
Dorm-style living for youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who have aged out of foster care.
- **Shared Housing**
Shared housing for youth between the ages of 18 and 24 on the path to self-sufficiency.
- **Independent Living**
Independent living for young adults ready to live in a self-sufficient environment.

OUR VISION

Our goal is to reduce homelessness for foster youth turning 18 with no place to go and no place to call home. Over the next three years, we aim to double our housing capacity increasing the number of former foster youth housed from 150 to 300 per year.

OUR PLAN

Raise \$13 million by 2022 to reduce homelessness for former foster youth

\$7 million

Will enable us to buy or lease more housing.

\$5 million

Will enable us to provide assistance to bridge the high rental costs of living in Northern California.

\$1 million

Will enable us to provide the supportive services needed to help our youth achieve self-sufficiency.

HOUSING

In Northern California, the skyrocketing rents and limited housing make it hard for any young person to find a place to live. Imagine foster youth who turn 18 and have to leave foster care with no family support. It is nearly impossible for them to find affordable housing in Northern California.

“For the first time in more than 130 years, Americans ages 18-34 are more likely to live with their parents than in any other living situation.” — Pew Research Center

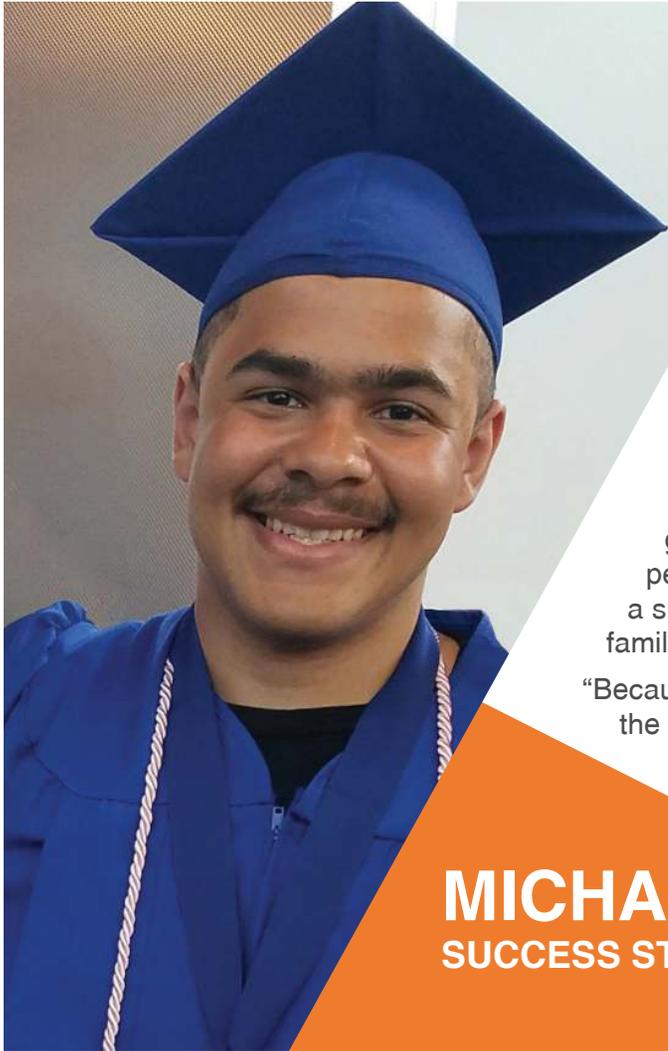
When he came to Unity Care, Alex was homeless at just 15 years old. Alex and his brother lived with his aunt because his father was in and out of jail, while his mother lived on the streets. During this time, Alex was charged with vandalism from what he thought was an innocent prank, and was sent to juvenile hall. After three months, he was placed into foster care and then joined Unity Care.

Unity Care showed him a different side of life. It was the first time he saw African Americans in a professional setting. It was eye opening and inspired him to be successful. Alex was able to move into the Transitional Housing Program (THP) starting his path to self-sufficiency. He earned his GED and entered a two-year internship with Hewlett-Packard. He even worked for Unity Care as a counselor, which helped him find his passion for working with kids.

“Without Unity Care, I would’ve been stuck on the streets. I received the skills I needed to work towards and achieve my goals, and learned how to take initiative, and how to problem solve.”

A portrait of a young Black man with short, dark, curly hair, looking slightly to the right of the camera. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background is a wooden fence and some greenery, suggesting an outdoor setting. The image is partially obscured by a large yellow triangle in the bottom right corner.

ALEX SUCCESS STORY



Michael entered the Transitional Housing Program (THP) at age 18. He was in foster care after his father and step-mother were arrested for running a meth lab out of their home. He came to Unity Care trying to do what would be best for his well-being.

Michael met with his case manager weekly, which helped him build essential life skills. By having a safe and secure place to live, he was able to focus on attending school and balancing a full-time job. Michael earned a football scholarship to attend an out-of-state private school, and has kept in touch with Unity Care staff.

Last winter, Michael stopped by the Unity Care office during his winter break and shared that he was going to propose to his girlfriend on New Year's Eve. Two of the staff helped him plan the perfect proposal to ensure that it was memorable. The proposal was a success and she said "Yes!" Michael was thrilled that his Unity Care family was there to help him for this special moment.

"Because of Unity Care, I had a safe place to live and was provided with the skills needed to be successful and independent."

He has graduated from college with a BA degree and is looking forward to a promising future.

MICHAEL

SUCCESS STORY

Melissa grew up in foster care living in more than 20 different foster homes. Due to an unstable family environment, she struggled with anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

After turning 18, she found herself couch surfing and struggling with homelessness. Melissa came to Unity Care and with our support, obtained stable housing, employment, and positive relationships with her peers. She graduated from community college and transferred to San Jose State. Melissa will soon graduate with a Bachelors of Art in Social Work and plans to apply to graduate school to further enhance her education.

“The people at Unity Care are my family. They have helped me by advocating for me and my needs. I really appreciate Unity Care because they believed in me and were there for me when I struggled...and are still there for me today!”



MELISSA SUCCESS STORY



In first grade, Theresa's father started sexually abusing her when he was intoxicated. Her godparents and aunt pressured her to not report the abuse. When Theresa turned 16, she had enough and reported the abuse with the help of a mentor. A week later, the police came and removed her from her father's care, and she was placed into foster care.

At 18, she entered the Transitional Housing Program at Unity Care. With Unity Care's support, Theresa was able to enroll in school, apply for financial aid, and even get her own apartment. Unity Care also helped Theresa to achieve her goals, which included an AA in Criminal Justice to work as a Probation Officer. She is still close with her Unity Care case manager and considers her to be a mentor and a friend.

"I never thought I would be able to apply to college, have a job, or live in the Bay Area due to not having support from my family. With the support of my Unity Care family, I was able to do all those things and more!"

THERESA

SUCCESS STORY

For more Unity Care success stories, please go to:
www.unitycare.org/success-stories/



UNITY CARE'S HOUSING CAMPAIGN

With your help, we can reduce homelessness for foster youth in Northern California. We can achieve this vision by reaching our campaign goal of **13 million dollars** by 2022.



“My biggest fear is that it is so expensive here that if I didn’t have Unity Care, I would be forced to leave.”

— Erica, Foster Youth

Help Unity Care reduce youth homelessness

Unity Care 1400 Parkmoor Avenue, Suite 115, San Jose, CA 95126 • 408 971 9822 • www.unitycare.org

