



**ENDING THE FOSTER CARE TO  
HOMELESSNESS PIPELINE**



Dear Supporter of Foster Youth,

We are ending the foster care to homelessness pipeline. We invite you to join us as we break the cycle of trauma and poverty for our most vulnerable foster youth.

When I created The RightWay Foundation in 2011, my goal was to help emancipating foster youth get jobs. But it was clear from the very first day that employment alone is not enough. The system-impacted youth who come through RightWay's doors carry with them years of trauma and neglect. They have been programmed to believe they shouldn't attain a college degree, pursue a career, maintain stable housing, or expect love and community. In recognition of the unresolved trauma and barriers negatively impacting foster youth, we have built programs that deconstruct that mindset and set our youth on the path to financial and emotional stability.

Our flagship program, Operation Emancipation, stands at the core of our mission. Through this comprehensive four-day trauma-informed and healing-centered employment readiness workshop, we integrate mental health services with employment opportunities and financial literacy. From stress management and communication skills to problem-solving in personal and professional realms, we equip system-impacted youth for success.

Once a foster youth is enrolled in our initial program, we offer them intensive therapy, connections to employment, workplace mentoring, vocational training or educational navigation, financial coaching, supportive housing, and community.

RightWay serves as a lifeline for system-impacted youth in Los Angeles County, providing safely-located, well-appointed apartments and shared housing for unhoused young adults. We supply the security deposit and subsidize half of each month's rent for one year while supporting youth in building financial and emotional stability. Without RightWay's financial backing, our youth would not have the credit or ability to rent in Los Angeles.

"It's not your fault, but it is your life." That is something I often say in our workshops for our foster youth as they begin to process their trauma. As an orphan and former probation youth, I know the isolation, hopelessness, and anger that our foster youth have to deal with every day in conjunction with the corrosive effects of racism and poverty. That is why we meet each youth where they are now and get them where they need to be. RightWay's programs utilize an individualized approach to help young adults coming out of the foster care system chart a path to their own futures. We make sure our youths' basic needs are met the same way traditional families do with their own kids who are transitioning into adulthood.

You can help us transform the lives of our most vulnerable foster youth, providing the resources, training, and community they need to focus on their future. Our youth deserve the chance to transition to safe, comfortable self-sufficiency when they exit from the foster care system or juvenile justice system.

Instead of surviving day to day, what if our most vulnerable youth were employed, housed, and pursuing a stable future? Join us in rewriting their narratives and creating lasting change. Your generosity will shape new opportunities and empower these young adults to build a better tomorrow for themselves and generations to follow.

Thank you for considering supporting The RightWay Foundation. We look forward to accelerating transformative change together.

**With warm thanks,**

**Franco Vega**  
**Founder and CEO, The RightWay Foundation**

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### ABOUT RIGHTWAY

Founded by **Franco Vega** in 2011, The RightWay Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to ending the cycle of trauma that leads foster youth to unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, and poverty. We partner with transition-age foster youth to build a self-sufficient life, grounded in mental health treatment and solidified through employment. By connecting foster youth and re-entry youth to well paying jobs, stable housing, mental health, and community, we help system-impacted youth build the well-being and financial security necessary to achieve their aspirations. RightWay operates in Los Angeles County in the largest regional foster care system in the nation. To learn more, visit [www.therightwayfoundation.org](http://www.therightwayfoundation.org)

"Youth who come out of the foster care system deserve the chance to thrive, no matter who they are" - [Franco Vega, Founder and CEO](#)

MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF AMERICA'S HOMELESS POPULATION SPENT TIME IN FOSTER CARE

74%

of RightWay youth retained employment or paid-internship longer than 6 months

85%

of program participants receiving mental health services report progress toward identified treatment goals.

86%

of RightWay youth have stable housing.

### *Our Programs*

## OPERATION EMANCIPATION

Operation Emancipation is RightWay's flagship program designed to help system-impacted youth in Los Angeles County. The program starts with a 32-hour workshop that promotes healing, focusing on mental health, financial literacy, and employment readiness. During this workshop, youth learn to manage their triggers, build self-awareness, and develop executive functioning skills. They are taught core competencies, such as stress management, effective communication, and problem-solving. Upon completion of the workshop, the youth have access to individualized therapy, job coaching, workplace mentoring, vocational training, financial capability coaching, supportive housing, case management, and community support. RightWay has served as a lifeline for system-impacted youth in Los Angeles County for over twelve years.





# IMPACT STORIES

**Real-life success stories of foster youth  
who have benefited from RightWay's programs**

## **Andrew -**

I first heard about The RightWay Foundation through a friend, and their reputation for assisting youth in need made me reach out for support. As a transition-age foster youth, I faced challenges with housing, transportation, and employment before connecting with The RightWay Foundation. Fortunately, they provided me with invaluable housing assistance, addressing my unique needs and goals. Operation Emancipation helped me recognize and regulate my trauma responses. Maintaining good mental health is essential for my job, and The RightWay Foundation's support makes me feel important and cared for. Completing an internship after their trainings is one of my biggest achievements.

## **Darlene -**

I first heard about The RightWay Foundation through my school when I needed help. I received stipends from The RightWay Foundation for being part of the emancipation program.

Operation Emancipation helped me overcome anxiety during job interviews and allowed me to be my authentic self. The mental health support I received has made an impact on my emotional well-being and overall outlook on life. Thanks to their assistance, I can now confidently take interviews without experiencing anxiety attacks.

## **Julia -**

The mental health support at The RightWay Foundation has reminded me that I always have someone to talk to and that I should never give up!

## **Alicia-**

I needed all the help I could get. Before connecting with The RightWay Foundation, I faced challenges with money struggles and homelessness.

Operation Emancipation has helped me recognize and regulate my trauma responses, teaching me about triggers and the healing process.

A specific success story I attribute, in part, to their services and support is the assistance I received from Evelina, who helped me with resources and programs, guiding me through my homeless situation and providing guidance and direction to build a stable future. The RightWay Foundation assisted me with housing navigation and job coaching, leading me to find a great job in my nursing career.

Being part of The RightWay Foundation's community has influenced my personal growth and self-confidence, encouraging me to be myself, stay strong, and continue to excel. To others who may need similar support, I would encourage them to listen, pay attention, and share their situations with The RightWay Foundation, as they truly care and offer the best support they can. I love The RightWay Foundation like family, and their support has made a positive impact on us, young adults, helping us become better people.





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# TESTIMONIALS

Testimonials from youth and collaborators  
who have witnessed the positive impact of RightWay programs.



**Whitney -**

There's no one quite like Franco and the team he's assembled at The RightWay Foundation. Every day, no matter the hurdles, RightWay uses their extensive expertise and profound energy to ensure that transition-age foster youth have the community and tools needed to process their pasts, stay steady in the present, and set themselves up to thrive in their futures. I am deeply honored to help RightWay with fundraising and Operation Housing First, as I have witnessed first-hand what a positive, world-altering difference their unique programs make.



**Haley -**

Since I was previously employed with RightWay some years ago and have just recently this past year restarted, it has been amazing to see youth coming in that I hadn't seen since the last time I was here a few years ago and comparing where they are now to where they were 3-5 years ago. One of the youth I knew during my time with RightWay previously is now working on the Jimmy Kimmel show, which is a tremendous feat considering where she started in film, working very hard on smaller, independent projects, making a name for herself in the industry. I have noticed a significant positive improvement in the quality of her life as well as the crowds she surrounds herself with. This is one of many instances in which I have had the pleasure of witnessing with my own eyes the tremendous growth that our youth are able to experience through The RightWay Foundation's support, connections, and guidance.



**Shamyia -**

In 2018 I entered a life changing organization, The RightWay Foundation. I was struggling financially on probation and without a home for more than two years. This program is not just only for general helping purposes; this program has supported me with all of my pain, depression, excessive stress and emotional breakdowns. I had one goal when I entered the program which was obtain full-time employment. Over the years they have supported me beyond what I expected. I participated in many events and workshops, such as financial literacy, acting, internships, life skills workshops, mentoring, etc. The RightWay Foundation has demonstrated what a supportive family feels like. August 2021 The RightWay Foundation moved me into my own apartment. One take away: No Excuses! As I continue my walk of life.