



# Hope for the Holidays

## 2016

Aug. 26, 2016

Dear Friends,

How would you celebrate, and where would you go for the holidays, if you grew up in foster care and were not adopted? Would you help us provide gifts for some of our often-forgotten young people this Christmas?

Every year, approximately 350 youth turn 18 while in foster care without being able to return to live with their biological families, and without being adopted. The holidays are an especially difficult time for these young adults who may be without a place to call home or a family with which to celebrate.

The Independent Living program within the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) works with these young adults, ages 18-23, to provide them support and guidance to become self-reliant, productive adults. There are approximately 600 Kansas youth in the Independent Living program.

Last year, as part of a new endeavor called Hope for the Holidays, DCF received donations to provide gifts to more than half of the young adults in the Independent Living program. This year, we hope to provide gifts to all of them. Will you consider showing these young people they are special, by providing a gift?

If you would like to help bring “Hope for the Holidays” to these often-forgotten young people, please call Tracy Crockett at 785-296-6846, or email [dcf.H4H@ks.gov](mailto:dcf.H4H@ks.gov).

We are accepting presents and \$100 Walmart gift cards to ensure a wonderful Christmas for those from foster care. We’ll be happy to discuss your commitment and how we can best pair your contribution with our youth.

If you’d like to be a part of this heart-warming campaign, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Brenda Estell

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