State of Maryland
Department of Human Resources

Maryland's Human Services Agency

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

Theodore Dallas
Interim Secretary

DATE: April 15, 2011

TO: Directors, Local Departments of Social Services
Assistant Directors, Local Departments of Social Services
Foster Care Supervisors, Local Departments of Social Services

FROM: Carnitra D. White, Executive Director
Social Services Administration

RE: Supportive Services to Graduating High School Foster Youth

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As of April 8, 2011, the Social Services Administration has entered into a contract with One Church, One Child of Maryland, Inc., to provide supportive services to Maryland's Foster Youth who are graduating from high school in 2011.

We are proud of the young people who have reached this milestone. We want to support these youth in forging life-long connections with caring adults, and in accessing support with the transition into adulthood which comes with graduation.

One Church, One Child of Maryland, Inc, will be connecting youth to community based organizations who are willing to provide monetary support, counseling, mentoring, assistance with college preparation and other referral services. Approximately one hundred (100) graduating seniors who are Foster Youth will be offered the opportunity to take advantage of this opportunity.

Examples of supportive services which may be offered through One Church, One Child:

- Mentoring
- Guidance Counseling
- Tutoring
- Association with high school graduation expenses, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - Senior Class Dues/Package
  - Graduation Fees
  - Cap and Gown
  - Class Ring
  - Senior Pictures
  - Yearbook
  - Prom Expenditures (tickets, attire, pictures and/or transportation)

- Preparation of College Applications/Essays
- College Care Packages
- College Tuition Assistance/ Scholarships
- Vocational Training
- Financial Literacy Training

We are requesting that local department caseworkers identify eligible youth, and discuss this opportunity with them. If the youth are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, caseworkers should fill out the Foster Youth Referral Form attached to this memo. Both the youth and the caseworker should sign the Referral Form and it should be forwarded to Shannon McRae (smcrae@dhr.state.md.us) via email or fax (410-333-0922 or 410-333-0127).

One Church, One Child will be able to accept only 100 applications for these services. We anticipate great demand for these support services and encourage caseworkers to submit the referral forms as soon as possible.

Attachment: Foster Youth Referral Form

cc: Debbie Ramelmeier
Anita Wilkins
Patricia Molineaux
Shannon McRae
Jill Taylor
Sherlema Quick