NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US!

AMP involves young people as advocates for themselves and as a voice for system-level improvements in child welfare policies and practices. Through supportive productive partnerships with adults, youth are authoritative advocates for making foster care more responsive and effective.

Members of AMP also encourage others to open their homes to teens in foster care, or to adopt. AMP youth educate legislators, child welfare professionals, juvenile court representatives, foster parents and the public about foster care and adoption from a youth perspective.

GET INVOLVED
Whether you are able to offer an hour, afternoon, or perhaps a lifetime, AMP can benefit from your time, talents and treasures.

- Allow us to speak at your event: AMP youth have a compelling story to share, and would welcome the opportunity to speak at your next luncheon, meeting or event.

- Share a skill, talent or hobby: The majority of youth who reach adulthood while in foster care do not get the chance to develop critical life skills that enable others their age to succeed. Please consider sharing your skills and knowledge with our youth.

- Donate a service or product: Teens leaving foster care have the same needs as others their age, as they move toward living independently. Furnishings, linens, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, towels, kitchen supplies, etc. are welcomed by donors to help AMP youth succeed.

- Provide financial support: Visit ampiowa.org to make a secure online donation to AMP’s lead organization, YSS. You can also mail your contribution via check to: YSS 420 Kellogg Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010. Please make your check out to YSS and note “AMP” in the memo line. To ensure your financial support is allocated to the AMP council of your choice, also include the location in the memo line.

Note from the Facilitators
As we continue to work on our newsletter, we’re cleaning it up a bit and implementing suggestions as to what you want to see. Just a note on the AMP Camp reunion—even if you haven’t been to camp before, check it out and see what it’s like. There’s always next year!
Ames
Facilitator: Terri Bailey  
Email: tbailey@yss.org  
Phone: 515.249.7089

Julie Holscher  
Email: jholscher@yss.org  
Phone: 515.291.0689

Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/ames_amp/

Meets @ Youth & Shelter Services Youth Activity Center on Third Floor (420 Kellogg Ave., Ames)

Monday 10.2.17 4 PM—6 PM: Food @ First—market (need boys to volunteer)

Thursday 10.5.17 4 PM—6 PM: Food @ First—meal (need girls to volunteer)

Thursday 10.12.17 6:30 PM—8 PM: Identity Theft Protection—Aaron Colyer from Wells Fargo Bank

**See Terri for more info on the rest of the month!**

Youth continue to volunteer at Food @ First to help with the food Pantry/Market and meals to the homeless. We have been doing “win it in a minute” games as icebreakers at the beginning of our meetings. Youth enjoy a chance to play and compete! In August we had a guest speaker Nicollette Brink who presented on how youth can create and find strong, positive support systems! She was a former foster youth herself and wants to help today’s youth as a way to “give back”. We did legislative ideas and are making Kindness Rocks (stole the idea from Fort Dodge AMP) this Thursday. Instead of rocks we are using slices of wood to paint (safety concerns) and will distribute the wood around Ames. In October we have a guest speaker from Wells Fargo Bank doing a presentation on identity theft and an AMP Halloween party at the Buckels farm on October 26th from 6:30-8:00pm. Other councils are welcome to come to the Halloween party, Four youth are planning to attend a Foster Youth in Action Conference in Washington D.C. from Oct. 19-23rd with Terri; youth are from Ames, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City councils. Youth will advocate for federal legislation at the conference, attend a press conference at the capital and visit Senator Grassley’s staff to see how they can promote youth ideas on a federal level.

Burlington
Facilitator: Debbie Schmidt  
Email: debraschmidt319@gmail.com  
Phone: 260.241.1127

Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/burlington_amp/

Meets @ Christamore Family Treatment Center (905 South Iris, Mt Pleasant)

Thursday 10.12.17 6:30 PM: Internet Safety Presenter Jason Marlow, Iowa State Patrol


Deb wrote a script for youth presenters, there is a new presenter each meeting and she rewards the youth with a small gift for leading the meeting. Deb sent out brochures to local councilors, therapists and schools to promote AMP. Deb knows Rich Taylor and Dave Heaton really well so planning legislative meetings on Nov. 16th & Dec. 14th. Heaton will attend Dec. AMP meeting in Mt Pleasant.

Cedar Rapids
Facilitator: Shelby Holsapple  
Email: shosapple@foundation2.org  
Phone: 319.651.0688

Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/cedar_rapids_amp/

Meets @ First Church of the Open Bible (1911 E Ave NW) 6:30 PM—8:30 PM Dinner is provided!

Thursday 10.12.17

Thursday 10.26.17

Shelby is planning an AMP meeting with 8 different stations teaching life skills like cooking, ironing etc. Sent in ideas for the 2018 legislative agenda, youth had some good ideas! Will be working on contacting Kirkwood for a mini conference in October-November.

Council Bluffs
Facilitator: Jenn Kephart  
Email: jkephart@childrenssquare.org  
Phone: 402.212.1474

Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/council_bluffs_amp/

Meets @ Gym of the Lied Education Center, Children’s Square U.S.A (N 6th St & Ave D).

Tuesday 10.3.17 6 PM—8 PM: Jokemaster, Group Challenge: Move It!, Healthy Relationships

Tuesday 10.17.17 6 PM—8 PM
YOU ARE INVITED TO A
HALLOWEEN PARTY

JOIN AMP FOR A GHOULISH NIGHT OF FUN AT:

October
26th
6:30-8:00pm

BUCKELS FARM
54684 150™ STREET  STORY CITY, IOWA

GAMES, PUPPIES & S’MORES BY THE BONFIRE!
FUTURE FEST EAST
2017

FOSTER/ADOPTIVE YOUTH AGES 14 & UP, PARENTS, AND CAREGIVERS!!

What do you have planned for the FUTURE? What is the next step after aging out of the system? Where will you live? Where will you work? Where will you go to school? What is out there for you?

Come check out our INDEPENDENT LIVING SIMULATION and have some fun! You will be connected with resources that will be able to answer questions you might have about your future.

There will be a motivational speaker, prizes, and food provided.

This event is FREE for foster/adoptive youth ages 14 and up and their caregivers.

RSVP preferred! Call or email Tai Brooks 563-326-8794 ext 8372 or tbrooks@dhs.state.ia.us

WHEN: Wed., October 18, 2017
WHERE: Adventure Church
6509 Northwest Blvd.
Davenport, Iowa 52806
TIME: 5-8pm (check in begins at 4:30pm)

Thank you to Adventure Church, Scott County DeCat, Clinton/Jackson & Scott County Community Partnerships for Protecting Children for their support in making FUTURE FEST EAST a success! Also, thank you to the planning committee members for making it happen!
Davenport  
Facilitator: Hannah May  
Email: mayhannah.davenportamp@gmail.com  
Phone: 815.768.9505  
Meet at Annie Wittenmyer Complex-Gymnasium (2800 Eastern Ave)  
Thursday 10.12.17 6 PM—7:30 PM  
Thursday 10.26.17 6 PM—7:30 PM

Des Moines  
Facilitator: Yahaira Espinosa  
Email: yaya.xo4997@gmail.com  
Phone: 515.943.5885  
Meet at Polk County Riverplace (2309 Euclid Ave) Enter through W atrium door, AMP is in Room 1.  
10.3.17 6 PM—8 PM  
10.17.17 6 PM—8 PM

Des Moines Mobile  
Facilitator: Yahaira Espinosa  
Email: yaya.xo4997@gmail.com  
Phone: 515.943.5885  
Serves youth in and surrounding Des Moines who live in YESS Shelter, Polk County Detention Center, Orchard Place, Woodward and Youth Homes of Mid-America. This facilitator brings the AMP Council meeting to the youth in their facility.  
Doing some hands on activities with youth in mobile sites. Focus is on youth behaviors, attitude, self-esteem etc. She has been working with Nathan from Disability Rights to look at what youth face in a closed residential program. Plan on talking about legislative agenda in next meetings.

Dubuque  
Facilitator: Indigo Channing  
Email: jessica.perry@hillcrest-fs.org  
Phone: 563.542.9736  
Monday 10.2.17 6:30 PM—8:00 PM: Game night @ Multicultural Family Center (1157 Central Ave)  
Tuesday 10.3.17 2:30 PM—5:00 PM: Arts & Culture Meeting @ Inclusive Dubuque (Rosheck Building) **Community Service  
Thursday 10.5.17 6:30 PM—7:30 PM: Gather to Set Free @ Charlotte’s Coffee House (1104 White St)  
Saturday 10.7.17 10:00 AM—2:00 PM: Kid’s Expo @ Grand River Center (No transportation provided.)  
Saturday 10.7.17 3:00 PM—5:00 PM: Movie Night @ Fellowship Hall (2005 Asbury Road) LILO & STICH  
Monday 10.9.17 6:30 PM—8:00 PM: Level Up! @ Multicultural Family Center  
Sunday 10.15.17 Leaving Dubuque @ 10:30 AM and returning around 10:00 PM: AMP Camp Reunion @ Forest Lake Camp (Ottumwa)  
Monday 10.16.17 6:30 PM—8:00 PM: Teens Against Human Trafficking @ Multicultural Family Center  
Thursday 10.19.17 6:30 PM—8:00 PM: AMP New Member Training @ Fellowship Hall  
Monday 10.23.17 6:30 PM—8:00 PM: Arts Night: Let’s Get Spooky! @ Multicultural Family Center  
Monday 10.30.17 5:30 PM—10:00 PM: Halloween Party and parade @ Indy’s office (220 W 7th Street in the Hillcrest Clinic)  
Art murals are going up all over Dubuque, and we’d like to get involved, so we’re getting more youth involved in art through community resources.
Eldora State Training School
Facilitator: Paul McNamara
Email: pmcnamara@yss.org
Phone: 319.404.6356
Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/eldora_sts_amp/

**MEETINGS ARE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE TRAINING SCHOOL ONLY.**
**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**
Most meetings are sports or outside activities. Paul is on a youth & families sub-committee in Des Moines where has taken Eldora boys to tell their stories. Youth are talking to campus officials about the creation of the new recreation center.

Fort Dodge
Facilitator: Cassie Johnson
Email: cjohnson.ysc@frontier.com
Phone: 515.570.4867
Facilitator: Kate Cardenas
Email: office.ysc@frontier.com
Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/fort_dodge_amp/
Meets @ First United Methodist Church (127 N 10th St).
Monday 10.9.17 5:30 PM—7:00 PM
Monday 10.23.17 5:30 PM—7:30 PM
Did the Kindness Rocks Project and plan to drop the rocks on a hiking trail in Fort Dodge. AMP youth created murals for the shelter in Fort Dodge. Contacted Iowa Central Comm. College for mini conference. Spoke at our first PS/MAPP class and youth did very well.

Marshalltown
Facilitator: Alyson Hicks
Email: Mtownamp@hotmail.com
Phone: 641.751.1776
Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/marshalltown_amp/
Meets @ Youth & Shelter Services (11 E State St)
Tuesday 10.3.17 6 PM—8 PM
Tuesday 10.17.17 6 PM—8 PM
Latinos for a New Dawn came and spoke to AMP, they were well received. AMP youth will march in an event in Marshalltown in October. Alyson made contact with Marshalltown Community College for collaboration on a mini camp.

Mason City
We’re looking for a new facilitator! Stay tuned!
Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/mason_city_amp/

Ottumwa
Facilitator: Holly Dommer
Email: hdommer@ahfa.org
Phone: 641.682.3449
Co-Facilitator: Joe Schulz
Email: growingwt@gmail.com
Phone: 641.682.3449
Web: http://www.ampiowa.org/en/amp_near_you/ottumwa_amp/
The Ottumwa Council meets on the second Sunday’s of each month at American Home Finding (217 East 5th St.) in Ottumwa from 5:30-7:00 p.m. & the third Wednesday of each month at Ottumwa High School at 12:30pm
Numbers are increasing because of new meetings at Job Corp. Looking like a good group is forming there. Holly & Joe are excited! Trying to lay out a schedule for all AMP groups for the entire year. Working on AMP Camp reunion activities. Forest Lake camp caretakers were very impressed with the AMP program, staff and youth; they are very excited for the camp reunion in October and want AMP to continue to use Forest Lake as their camp site.

AMP Activities at the Des Moines Science Center 2017! Saturdays 1:30 PM—3:00 PM
October 14: Star Theatre Program
For more information contact:: Terri Bailey 515-249-7089 tbailey@yss.org
FREEDOM IN ACTION II
FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN IOWA

This training is designed for law enforcement, first responders, victim advocates, healthcare workers, educators, legal professionals and any other professionals who may encounter human trafficking.

OCTOBER 30
9AM-5PM
AMES, IA
at Cornerstone Church

Featuring Ambassador Luis CdeBaca
Former Ambassador to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons and Former Director, US DOJ Sex Offender (SMART) Office

One of the country’s most decorated Federal Prosecutors, he has built his litigation record into policy, transforming US anti-trafficking efforts and including voices of victims, workers, and advocacy community in decision-making. He is working to ensure exploitation-free supply chains and establish information-sharing that makes communities, college campuses, and the travel industry safer.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
Jana Rhoads, DHS
Joy Fopma, Wings of Refuge
Mike Ferjak, Ret. IA Attorney General Task Force
Mike Staebell, Ret. US Dept. of Labor
Ruth Buckels, YSS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
E-MAIL TAHT@YSS.ORG
Space is limited; registration closes Oct. 20th.
*Lunch is on your own.
IOWA YOUTH SCHOOL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

November 17-19, 2017
Camp Sacajawea - Boone, IA

Please Pass the Love is proud to announce the first annual Iowa Youth School Climate Leadership Summit November 17-19, 2017 at Camp Sacajawea in Boone, Iowa. We are seeking nominations and/or applications from some of Iowa’s most amazing high school students. No leadership experience is required, but a desire to be a leader is essential.

This fall we will bring youth leaders from across the state for a variety of education and training revolving around team-building, public speaking, leadership, advocacy, social-emotional learning, and much more. The objective is that the leaders will take this back to their schools and districts to create a sustainable youth climate transformation “group/team.” We will provide the team with ongoing support, but each group will have its own goals based on school/district/region needs. After the youth leader is accepted into the program, we will work with the leader and the school for a school mentor to advise and facilitate.

In the spring, those same trained leaders will also be facilitators for a state-wide youth retreat that will also provide skill-training, education, awareness, relationship-building, leadership, FUN, and much more, for youth from across the state.

The best part about this event is that it is completely FREE for our limited number of youth leaders accepted into the program. We have your room and board covered for the weekend. If you need help with transportation, we will try our hardest to help with that, too.

Requirements:
• Enrolled in a public or private high school
• Need to be able to attend the entire leadership summit on November 17th-19th. No exceptions. We will work with schools to get excused absences for those needing to miss school to arrive on time.
• Need to be able to attend the entire retreat April 6-8th. No exceptions. We will work with schools to get excused absences for the 6th.
• Access to the internet to meet regularly via Zoom throughout the school year to plan, reflect, problem-solve, and work as a leadership team!
• Desire for every school to be a safe, happy, and healthy place for all students.
• Passion for your community, school, and everyone in it.
• We do not have a GPA requirement, but we do ask that you do get a letter of recommendation from at least one teacher that has had you in class in the last year.
• Willing to make this a commitment a priority for the 2017-2018 school year. Be cautious of being too involved and not allowing for the adequate time this commitment requires (regular leadership meetings, regular team meetings at school, both the summit and the retreat).
• Completing an application and essay questions
• We reserve the right for phone and/or Zoom interviews depending on the number of applicants received.
• Applications are due no later than September 1st at 11:59pm.

Apply and find out more about Please Pass the Love at www.pleasepassthelove.org

We also welcome nominations for youth that you feel may be exceptional for this opportunity. Those can also be completed at www.pleasepassthelove.org

Please Pass the Love is committed to increasing school-based mental health supports to improve the quality of life and educational opportunities for children, families, and educators as well as offer culturally responsive comprehensive services and evidence-based supports to school systems. We strive to bridge positive relationships between the educational and mental health communities to more effectively prevent and address mental health issues for our children and adolescents throughout the state of Iowa.
What is AMP?
AMP is a youth-driven, statewide group that seeks to unleash the full potential for personal growth among foster and adoptive children in Iowa. AMP offers leadership opportunities, service learning projects, speaking opportunities, and educational/vocational assistance. Amp also provides the life skills youth need to become self-sufficient, independent adults.

WHO CAN COME?
Any youth between 13 and 21 can attend an AMP meeting if they have been placed out of the home at some point in their life. They could have been in foster care, relative care, residential, group home, or a shelter. If you have any questions, please contact your local facilitator.

The Partnership of Iowa Foster Care Youth Councils is a collaboration of 10 organizations led by YSS. The Iowa Department of Human Services is the primary grant funder for AMP, with donations and local community support supplementing local youth AMP councils.

The Partnership includes: American Home Finding Association (Ottumwa Council), Children's Square USA (Council Bluffs & Sioux City Councils), Foundation 2 (Cedar Rapids Council), Four Oaks (Waterloo Council), Francis Lauer, a YSS organization (Mason City Council), Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa (Fort Dodge Council), YSS (Ames, Marshalltown, & Davenport Councils), Iowa Homeless Youth Centers, a YSS organization (Des Moines Council), Hillcrest Family Services (Dubuque Council), and Young House Family Services (Burlington Council).

The partnership networks with other stakeholders, including but not limited to, the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Iowa KidsNet, the Iowa Aftercare Services Network, Juvenile Court Services, as well as both governmental and private agency service providers.
"Dreams are the whispers of the soul....listen to your soul's whispers, for therein lies your destiny"  ~ Nathan Collier

What is the whisper of YOUR soul? The Ames Interfaith Community wants to support your dream. The focus of the young person's use of Dream Seed funds is to assist in the transition to adult life, including the desire to make a positive contribution to society in realizing an individual dream. This may include pursuing a personal goal related to career, educational or community betterment/development goals.

Dream Seed fund is not to support therapy or other mental health needs, or meet basic needs for living. While a youth's particular spiritual path may be of supreme importance that is also not the focus. For these needs, youth are encouraged to access funding streams connected with the particular areas.

WHAT?  Dream Seed was created by the Ames Unity Church and is funded by the Ames Interfaith Community to fund the dreams of young people. It is an investment in your future!

AM I ELIGIBLE?  A Dream Seed grant is available to an AMP youth age 16 and older who is served by one of the 14 AMP Councils across Iowa. Youth participating in the Iowa Aftercare Services Network are also eligible.

AMOUNT?  Grants of up to $300 will be awarded

HOW DO I APPLY?  Complete the Dream Seed Application and mail it to:
YSS Family Counseling Center – Attn. AMP
125 S. 3rd Street, Ames, IA 50010
Applications are due October 13, 2017

WHEN WILL I HEAR?  Dream Seed awards will be determined by November 3, 2017 and you will be notified by November 10, 2017

THEN WHAT?  You will have between December 1, 2017 and May 1, 2018 to make significant strides in reaching your dream. You will be asked to provide a brief oral report via phone to the Selection Committee by June 30, 2018.

Human Trafficking: It is Here and Thriving in Iowa
Presented by Ruth Buckels
Thursday November 2, 2017
Hotel Ottumwa, 107 E. 2nd St., Ottumwa, IA
$10.00 fee includes conference and light refreshments
Questions or want to register???? Please feel free to contact Holly Dommer at AHFA 641.682.3449 or email your local AMP facilitator.