If you or someone you know would like to know more about the CHANCE TO ADVANCE PROGRAM or would like to become a Mentor, Contact: Demishia Owens Chance to Advance Program Director 60 Plant Ave. Hauppauge, NY 11788 Phone: (631) 648-2700 Fax: (631) 648-2704 demishia.owens@eac-network.org

EAC Network is a not-for-profit human service agency that empowers, assists, and cares for over 82,000 children, families, seniors, and individuals in crisis across Long Island and New York City.

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Empowering, assisting and caring for people in crisis

Improving the lives of youth in foster care through mentoring

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Funding for the Chance To Advance Program and tuition assistance is supported by community and private funding.
What is Chance To Advance?
Chance to Advance is a foster care and adoption advocacy program in which trained Mentors assist youth in connecting with enrichment programs and extracurricular activities. In addition, Chance To Advance provides college and vocational coaching, promotes independent living skills and encourages self-esteem necessary for future success. Youth who reside or once resided in foster care, ages 8-21, are encouraged to apply to participate in planned activities and be connected with a Mentor to receive one-on-one guidance and support.

Who are the Mentors?
Mentors are interested men and women from the community who volunteer with EAC Network program staff to link youth in care to local resources. Each adolescent is paired with a mentor who builds on a friendship while being a resource within the community. The mentor meets with the mentee regularly to promote their interests, as well as:
- Assist youth in identifying and setting goals
- Encourage higher education, development of vocational skills, and positive recreational activities
- Promote positive, healthy relationships
- Establish a lifetime bond with a positive role model

What training do Mentors receive?
Chance to Advance Mentors are trained in issues related to the foster care and adoption system, mentoring, youth development, child abuse, community resources, and EAC Network’s policies and procedures. Additional training and support is ongoing.

Your Time Commitment/Donations
If you can’t make the time commitment but would like to help the youth in Chance to Advance, please consider donating goods, admission tickets, holiday gifts, or supplies to the program. Monetary donations may be applied towards Little Wishes; an EAC Network program that grants the wishes of children residing in foster care.

Annual Summer Camp
Chance To Advance Summer Camp is N.Y.S. licensed and provides participants the opportunities to develop socialization and life skills through the use of educational and recreational activities. Some activities offered include:
- Cooking classes
- Teambuilding and self esteem exercises
- Trips to Splish Splash and sporting events
- Trips to museums and live theater productions

Mentoring Relationship
The mentoring relationship is a commitment to building a mutual friendship to share each other’s lives and respect each other’s differences.
Mentors have used the following activities to build upon their relationships with mentees:
- Eating out while communicating about the week
- Playing video or board games
- Attending museums and cultural events
- Playing sports
- Enjoying creativity through arts and crafts
- Providing assistance with college and employment applications
- Attending Job Fairs

Chance To Advance hosts group activities where all mentors and mentees are invited to participate.
Activities include but are not limited to:
- Trips to NYC
- Life skill workshops
- College Tours

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”-Margaret Mead