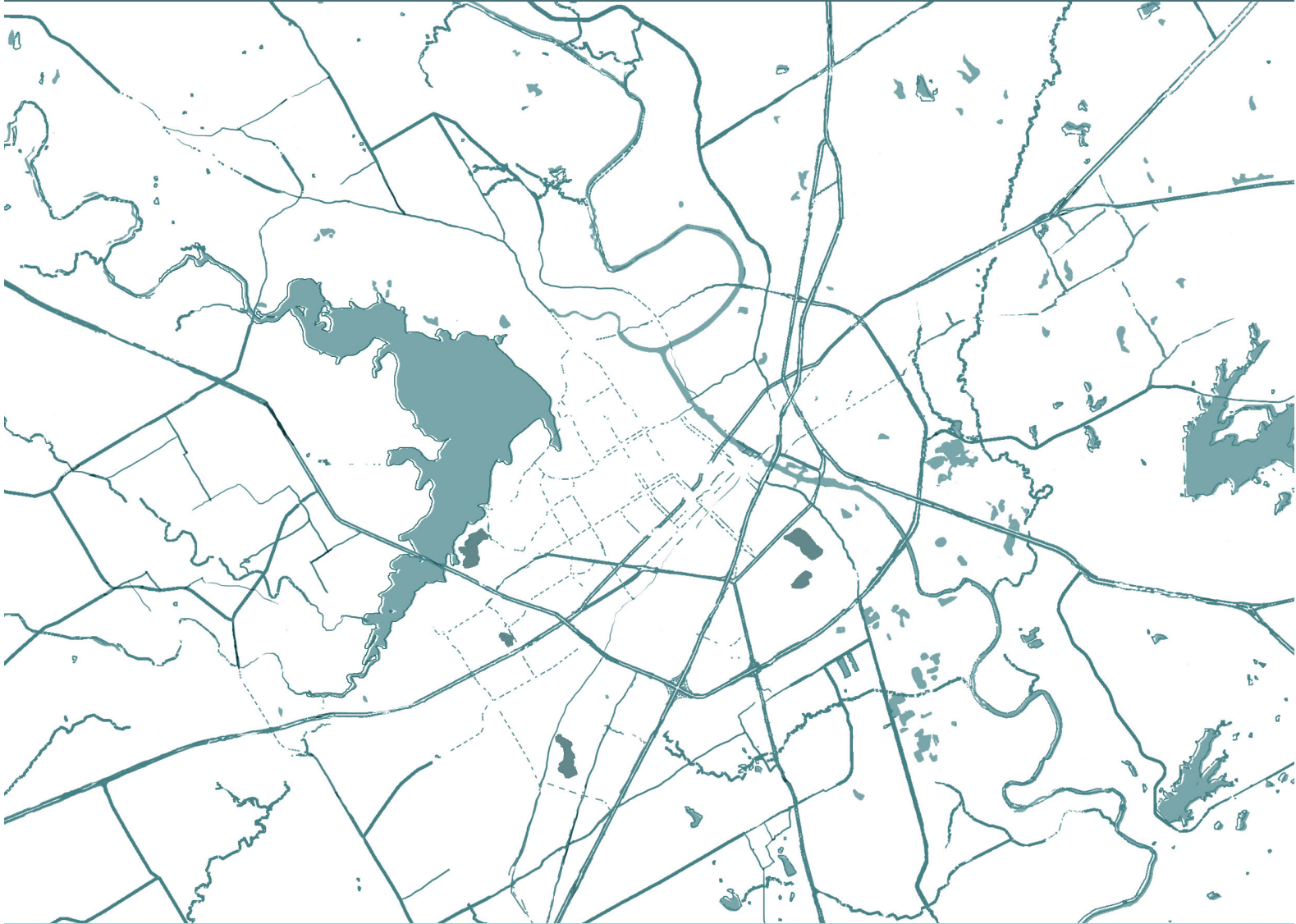


PROPOSAL

WACO • TEXAS



Prepared for:	Partners
Company Name	Empty Frames Initiative
2221 La Salle Avenue, Waco, TX 76706	
Phone 919.841.2029	www.fillingemptyframes.org

Proposal Issued: | 01.01.2024

Proposal Valid to: | 12.31.2024



HOME IS HERE

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ABOUT US

OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE YOUTH AS THEY TRANSITION OUT OF STATE CARE INTO INDEPENDENT LIVING.

Empty Frames Initiative is looking to begin work in the state of Texas. August of 2021, Texas had custody of 28,753 children. It's estimated that close to 1200 youth age out of foster care annually in Texas. Empty Frames Initiative sees a need and opportunity to connect these young adults to a community to help them transition into a complete and fulfilling independent life.

Around the world, youth aging out of state care are put into vulnerable positions. It's not uncommon for kids to age out, try to navigate this new road on their own, and then become susceptible to traffickers, get involved in criminal life, or commit suicide. In response to this need, we want to empower foster youth aging out of state care to tell and redeem their stories, stories that often go unheard. We are looking to open a facility that will provide counseling, training in life skills, community, and the knowledge of the gospel. We carry a global vision, and are excited to begin the journey.

VALUES

Empty Frames Initiative is inspired and driven by the heart of the Father. We believe everyone is created with a purpose, and that each individual has immense worth. We find this to be a key value of our program as we look to affirm with the participants that their lives have enormous potential.

WHO WE ARE

Our Board of Directors and Governance Board covers a diverse range of backgrounds and interests, from business owners to advocates, all coming together to make this initiative and the Overture Program a reality.

Miriam Cobb

Teara Vicars

Aislinn Cobb

Sarah Chambers

Tim & Crystal Cobb

Dan & Amy Seaman

Lillianne Hendricks

Ed & Kathy Long

OVERTURE | 'ōvərCHər' |

noun: an introduction to something more substantial

OVERTURE

The Overture Program is designed as a three-month intensive orientational training, serving as an introduction to and preparation for independent living. Beginning with a safe place to 'just be' and relieve some of the pressures of life on your own, every Overture starts with getting to know the coach and housemates. Then the Life Skills courses begin, and these will cover a wide variety of topics, most taking place in the home environment, with counselors, teachers and community members participating. Each session would serve 4-5 students at a time, all living on site, at no expense to them. The students will receive a certificate of completion, as well as networking connections throughout the community, enabling the participants to be more competitive in the workplace or university.

Our intent is that each youth who completes the program will leave with the skills needed to confidently enter the next phase of their lives.

KEY ELEMENTS TO THE OVERTURE PROGRAM

COUNSELING

The most effective counseling happens through real relationships. Counseling offers self-discovery that enables new perspectives not only for themselves, but also for dealing with others. Through the Overture Program, counseling will be available through multiple formats: peer to peer relationships, mentor coaching, and one-on-one sessions with a professional counselor.

COMMUNITY

The Overture Program places strong emphasis on utilizing the local community and partnering with existing local programs to equip these students for successful transition. By teaching some of the Life Skill classes, by providing meals and transportation, by providing some of the material needs, by offering career training or internships, the community is not only introduced to the participants of Overture, but allows the students to become an integral part of the community itself. Bonds that will be built will offer a strong support network that remains long after graduation.

LIFE SKILLS

Students will be prepared for independent living through Life Skill classes. From cooking to money management, they will be taken through a learning process that begins with the basics (i.e. measurements for cooking) then will graduate to a level of self sufficiency (i.e. being able to cook a few meals / read a recipe without supervision / prepare a menu / and budget for shopping).

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Empty Frames Initiative is a Christian led organization and believes strongly that the most valuable thing to be passed on to the students is access to the Gospel. Within the program, time is given to discuss Scripture and invite the students to participate and ask questions. The students are under no obligation to agree with what is offered, and no expectations are put upon them, as we believe it is only by the work of the Father that any will come to know Him.

THE NEED

FOSTER ALUMNI VOICES

Speaking with many emancipated foster youth helped EFI see their specific needs as they were aging out. All of them spoke of needing to know what their options were. They continued by saying *“the youth coming out of the foster care system just need a safe space to process and prepare for the future, a space where they can learn to communicate well and work through the emotions they face at that stage in life.”*

This is what we hope to provide in this space.

YOUTH IN CARE & AGING OUT

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
YOUTH IN U.S. FOSTER CARE (1)	414,259	427,439	434,168	441,071	437,283		
YOUTH SERVED IN TEXAS FOSTER CARE (2)	46,777	47,492	48,963	50,331	52,361	51,097	
YOUTH AGING OUT OF U.S. FOSTER CARE (3)	22,392	20,789	20,532	19,945	17,844		
YOUTH AGING OUT OF TX FOSTER CARE EACH JANUARY (4)	1,246	1,180	1,250	1,200	1,211	1,212	1,267

1 - CHILDREN'S BUREAU. (AUG 2019). THE AFCARS REPORT (PDF). RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.ACF.HHS.GOV/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/CB/AFCARSPORT26.PDF](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport26.pdf)

2 - CHILDREN'S BUREAU. (JUNE 2020). CHILDREN SERVED IN FOSTER CARE (WEB PAGE). RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.ACF.HHS.GOV/CB/REPORT/TRENDS-FOSTER-CARE-ADOPTION-FY-2010-2019-0](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/trends-foster-care-adoption-fy-2010-2019-0) (XLSX) [HTTPS://WWW.ACF.HHS.GOV/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/DOCUMENTS/CB/AFCARSS_STATE_DATA_TABLES_10THRU19.XLSX](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars_state_data_tables_10thru19.xlsx)

3 - CHILDREN'S BUREAU. (JANUARY 2021). ALL NUMBERS ARE TAKEN FROM ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM (AFCARS) OF THE MATCHING YEAR. ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS (WEB PAGE). RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.ACF.HHS.GOV/CB/RESEARCH-DATA-TECHNOLOGY/STATISTICS-RESEARCH/AFCARSS](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/afcars)

4 - TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES. (2021). ICPS INTERACTIVE TX MAP : YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE BY YEAR (WEB PAGE). RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.DFPS.STATE.TX.US/ABOUT_DFPS/DATA_BOOK/CHILD_PROTECTIVE_SERVICES/CONSERVATORSHIP/EXITS.ASP](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/about_dfps/data_book/child_protective_services/conservatorship/exits.asp)

“Most youth who leave the foster care system do not receive adequate preparation and support for their transition to independent living. Compared to other youth, foster youth are more likely to be homeless, incarcerated, unemployed, and unskilled. They are also more likely to experience physical, developmental, behavioral, and mental health challenges.”

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION, CENTER PUBLICATIONS
STATE POLICIES TO HELP YOUTH TRANSITION OUT OF FOSTER CARE, WWW.NGA.ORG

HOMELESSNESS



The US Children's Bureau surveyed 21 year old foster care alumni and found that **26% had experienced homelessness** in the past two years.

LOWER GRADUATION RATES



It's estimated that only **50%** of foster youth graduate high school by 18 and less than 10% of foster youth graduate college.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE



At age 17, over one quarter (**28%**) had, at some point during their lifetimes, been referred for substance abuse assessment or counseling. Fifteen (15) percent at age 19 and 10% at age 21 reported having had a referral within the past two years.

INCARCERATION



Of 15,000 foster alumni polled by the United States Children's Bureau **37% of 17 yr olds** had been incarcerated at some point. By 21, when only 6,900 responded to the survey, 20% had been incarcerated in the past two years.

TEEN PREGNANCY



Young women in foster care are more than **twice as likely** as their peers not in foster care to become pregnant by age 19.

TRAFFICKING TARGETS



Traffickers prey on the vulnerable of society - the same population that is trying to be helped by foster care. One anti-trafficking organization, *Transforming Hope*, states that **up to 80%** of exploited children were previously in contact with social services.

cycle |'sɪk(ə)|

noun: an interval of time during which a sequence of a recurring succession of events or phenomena is completed • a series of events that are regularly repeated

We can look at these statistics as an isolated occurrence, or we can recognize a cycle. Youth exiting foster care are often not prepared for the next steps - as most, if not all, 18 to 21 year olds are not prepared to be completely independent.

Unfortunately, foster youth often fall into the same patterns as their families and become caught in the cycle of abuse and of dependency.

Empty Frames Initiative offers hope for these students. We believe that there are options afforded to them that they may not know how to utilize. We believe that, by God's grace, this space can be used to raise up generations of independent, community connected, foster care alumni who are given every opportunity to use those tools and resources to make a positive change in society.

STATISTICS TAKEN FROM: FOSTER CARE TO SUCCESS. (January 2014). Fostering Success in Education: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care [PDF]. Retrieved from <http://cdn.fc2success.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/National-Fact-Sheet-on-the-Educational-Outcomes-of-Children-in-Foster-Care-Jan-2014.pdf>

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE. (November 2016). Data Brief #5 [PDF]. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/nytd_data_brief_5.pdf

COURTNEY, ME ET AL. (2005). Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 19, working paper, Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

TRANSFORMING HOPE. (No Date). Learn More [web page]. Retrieved from <https://www.transforminghopeministries.org/humantrafficking/>



OUR HOPES FOR OUR SPACE

A Place to Call Home - The Case for Permanency

FOSTER CARE REVOLVES AROUND TRANSITION. THIS TRANSITION OFTEN LEADS TO A LACK OF STABILITY AND CAN SOMETIMES CAUSE FEELINGS OF UNCERTAINTY AND OF BEING UNSAFE. WE BELIEVE A HUGE BENEFIT FOR OUR STUDENTS WILL BE THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY CAN ALWAYS COME HOME, THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR THEM. WE WANT TO FIND A SPACE THAT WILL HOST TWO SYMBIOTIC PURPOSES: THE FIRST FLOOR AS AN ART GALLERY AND THE TOP FLOORS AS LIVING SPACE FOR THE OVERTURE PROGRAM.

RESIDENCY



The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned. - Maya Angelou

The Overture Program will provide housing for 4 students, plus 1 LifeCoach at a time. The residency could be located on the top floors of a large building or house, shown in the renovation examples. This will allow each student to have their own apartment or bedroom, and would provide an additional living space with a family room and kitchen.

The time spent in this residency builds upon their Life Skill training as they are taught how to maintain their own space and possessions.

Upon completion of the Overture Program, each participant will receive a Life Pack for whatever direction of life they have decided to pursue. Some of the new items included will be luggage, furniture and bedding for apartment or dorms, kitchen items, and a few small appliances and bath basics. Each pack will be very personalized based on need. The pack will be built as they progress through the program and added to their room in our residency until their completion, at which time they will take their newly acquired belongings with them.

Whether the facility is a building downtown or a house in an established neighborhood, the community surrounding it will be in existence for the foreseeable future, lending to the credibility of permanency.

GALLERY



Provides a platform for the youth to have a voice & share what they will.

Empty Frames Initiative looks to utilize the bottom floor of the facility for a small independent Art Gallery that highlights the stories and perspectives of orphaned and vulnerable youth.

We have been developing a curriculum using proven methodology that combines the art of photography with storytelling to help process through experiences in a productive, healing way. As those that enter our program deal with the new, independent life they have now and have access to counseling in a relaxed atmosphere, we hope to encourage them to share their stories and to advocate for others with similar experiences.

An Art Gallery that displays stories through photography and other mediums will not only lend itself to the beauty of the structure, but will offer an opportunity to the surrounding community to interact and engage in a very personal way with the foster care community.

A Gallery also reinforces the permanency aspect of the space. The first floor will be open to the public during business hours, therefore Alumni of the Overture program will always have access to the Gallery and those affiliated with the program.



OUR HOPES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A Place for Opportunity - The Case for Collaboration

ENCOMPASSING THE SCOPE OF EFI'S VISION INCLUDES A LARGE BUILDING OR CAMPUS THAT WOULD BECOME A CENTRAL LOCATION FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN REGARDS TO THE TOPIC OF YOUTH EMANCIPATING FROM STATE CARE. • IN ADDITION TO OVERTURE HOUSE, A SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY WOULD ALSO BECOME A SPACE WHERE INDIVIDUALS AND NON-PROFITS ARE TRAINED IN HOW TO BEST CARE FOR SOME OF OUR POPULATION'S MOST VULNERABLE. • MOREOVER, AN INNOVATIVE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY COULD EXPLORE THE INTERSECTION OF HOMELESSNESS, INCARCERATION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITHIN THE FIELD OF YOUTH EMANCIPATION.

WE HOPE THE CAMPUS WOULD BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH RESTORATION, UNITY, SUCCESS & GROWTH AND BECOME A LAUNCHPAD FOR SOCIETAL VENTURES LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND IN TIME, INTERNATIONALLY .

OVERTURE HOUSE

RESIDENCY

Dedicated floor of building used exclusively for residents of EFI's Overture Short-term Residential Program



This entire floor is chosen because it guarantees privacy and space to house our short-term residents of recently emancipated youth as they work with counselors and work through our curriculum to progress to the next phase of their life.

COMMUNITY CENTER

EDUCATION

Art Gallery (ground floor) will be the permanent home for "The Story of Foster Care".

Community Training Center



By equipping a broader group of people with an understanding of the needs and how to provide for these with actionable steps builds and grows each community. Public meetings, conferences, panel discussions, classroom training. Through quarterly themes, this space would focus on pressing social justice issues (homelessness, human trafficking, addiction, etc.) and their intersection to three core vulnerabilities (being orphaned, widowed, or displaced).

PASSION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

INNOVATION

Offices and potential housing used for Research Fellowship program



This fellowship program will offer collaboration with successful ventures from all over the world. The fellows would rotate through, bringing best practices from their sphere of work, conducting research, and compiling creative solutions and new methods for societal issues. Length of stay would vary upon Fellow, from 3-6 months. Upon recommendation of board and approval of Residential and Executive Director, Fellows are accepted by application.

MARKETPLACE

WORK FORCE

Successful business models and their Satellites located on ground floor, employing former foster youth.



Showcasing successful business models from around the US, the Marketplace has endless possibilities. Restaurant/coffee house - based on Carol's Kitchen (NC) and The Monkey & the Elephant (PA) or Screen Printing (CA), Studios (photography, sound, art) (CA, NC, TX), as well as many more. With a large enough space, several of these models could be businesses on the ground floor. By changing the paradigm of non-profits, this idea gives them the option and opportunity to be self-sustaining.

WHAT WE'VE ENVISIONED FOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS

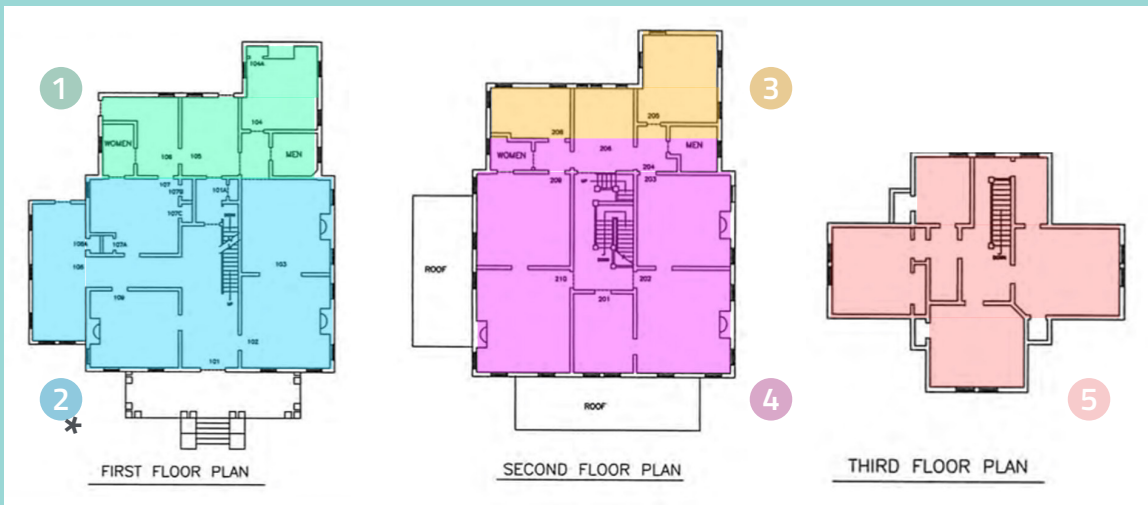
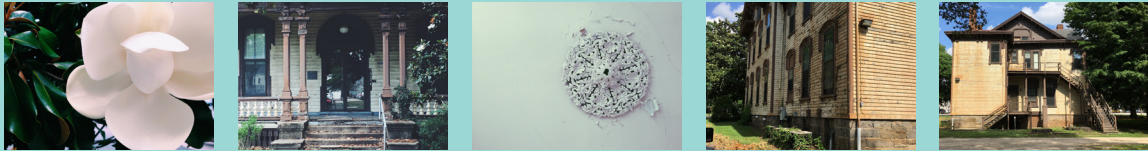
WE HAVE VIEWED & CONSIDERED SEVERAL PROPERTIES. THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITES. WE HOPE TO UNIQUELY UTILIZE THE SPACE OFFERED WITH THE CHOSEN HOME OR BUILDING. MAKING THE FIRST FLOOR AN ART GALLERY OPENS THE DOOR TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EVENTS AND ALLOWS THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY TO INVEST IN THE WORK BEING DONE IN FOSTER CARE. THE PRIVATE RESIDENCY ON THE TOP FLOORS WILL ALLOW EACH STUDENT TO HAVE THEIR OWN APARTMENT OR BEDROOM AND BATH, AS WELL AS PROVIDE A FAMILY ROOM & KITCHEN AREA OPEN ONLY TO THEM.

WE HOPE TO ALWAYS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS AND WILL CHALLENGE OUR PARTICIPANTS TO DO THE SAME.



If space allows, Empty Frames Initiative would like to become a central location for training and innovation surrounding the topic of youth emancipating from state care, specifically as it intersects with other vulnerable populations. Creating healthy connections within the community and maintaining a network of caring partners. This collaborative campus would be a launchpad for positive growth and societal change.

WHAT WE'VE ENVISIONED FOR HOME RENOVATIONS



FLOOR PLAN IDEAS FOR ANDREWS-DUNCAN HOUSE

- ❶ Kitchen renovated for easy hands-on environment for instructors and students. Capable of supporting catered events.
 - ❷ This will be the space designated as the art gallery. Open to public during business hours and able to be rented out for certain evening gala events. The gallery could provide an exclusive and unique venue for any soiree.
 - ❸ Coach Housing. Private quarters set up as small apartment for one life coach. Bedroom, living room/office, bath.
 - ❹ Student Housing. Private room for each student large enough for bedroom area and designated area for either sitting area or office/desk space. (4 student bedrooms, 4 student bathrooms)
 - ❺ This space will be designated as the Group Living Space. Plans to make the most of the floor will include taking down several walls to offer open rooms. Will include kitchenette, dining area, living room and laundry.
- * The first floor is the **only** floor accessible to non-residents.

OUR PROJECT TIMELINE

MARKET
RESEARCH ✓

BID ACCEPTED ON
SUITABLE SPACE ✓

RENOVATIONS
ON STRUCTURE

OPEN
FACILITY

OVERTURE
PROGRAM
BEGINS

✓ PUBLISHED
NATIONAL PROJECT
VOLUMES 1 & 2

✓  TOURING ART
GALLERY

CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN

PREPARE ROOMS
FOR RESIDENTS
& GALLERY SPACE

TAKE APPLICATIONS FOR
RESIDENTS & GIVE TOURS OF
FACILITY

TEACH OTHER CITIES
HOW TO REPLICATE THE
PROGRAM



June 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Director of SaySo, Inc. (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out), I am pleased to provide this letter of support to the program Empty Frames Initiative (EFI). As the proverb states **“It takes a village to raise a child,** which means that it takes an entire community to raise a child: A child has the best ability to become a healthy adult if the entire community takes an active role in contributing to the development of the child.

As partners of the foster care community, we at SaySo believe that the program, services and supports that the Empty Frames Initiative are wanting to offer young adults in transition would greatly benefit not only the young adults transitioning from foster care youth in North Carolina, but would serve the better good of our North Carolina community. Services for transition age youth in North Carolina are improving for youth and young adults in foster care, but additional support are always needed.

SaySo is a statewide association of youth ages 14-24 who either are or have been in the substitute care system in North Carolina. Our mission is to work to improve the substitute care system by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to youth who are or have been in substitute care. SaySo is recognized in North Carolina and nationally as a respected youth-driven advocacy organization. We currently have over 500 youth members statewide, spread across 6 different regions (Mountain, Greater Charlotte, Triad, Triangle, Northeast and Southeast).

SaySo will serve as a community partner with Empty Frames Initiative to educate youth in care about the resources, information, life skills training and housing that Empty Frames Initiative will offer. The goals of the Empty Frame Initiative are closely aligned with NC LINKS desired outcomes for youth in care of safe and stable housing, achieving vocational and education goals, and developing a support systems to persons and the community. I am pleased to offer the support of SaySo, Inc. to the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this statement, please contact me directly at 919-384-1457.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Carmelita Coleman

Carmelita Coleman, MSW

Executive Director

www.saysoinc.org



COMMUNITY VOICES

“UNDERSTANDING THAT MOST YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ILL PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN THE “REAL WORLD” AT AGE 18 AND YET THOSE REACHING THAT AGE IN FOSTER CARE ARE OFTEN FORCED INTO THAT POSITION, IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE A GROUP LIKE THE EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE STEPPING FORWARD TO ASSIST THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE THOSE NEXT CHALLENGING STEPS. THE REVITALIZATION AND USE OF THE ANDREWS DUNCAN HOUSE FOR THIS PURPOSE NOT ONLY SERVES THESE YOUNG PEOPLE BUT PROVIDES A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY BY AIDING IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT AS CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS.”

ED LONG
VICE PRESIDENT
HARROD AND ASSOCIATES
CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

“... I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ENDORSE THE MINISTRY OF EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE AND THE NEED FOR THIS BUILDING... I CAN SEE IT NOW - ALL OVER THE HOUSE, FRAMED PICTURES WITH SMILING FACES - FACES THAT KNOW THEY ARE LOVED AND ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO FLOURISH IN SOCIETY.”

CHIP DEWITT
VICE PRES. FOR DEVELOPMENT
CAPITOL COMMISSION

“... WE NEED GROUPS LIKE EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE WHO HAVE A HEART FOR SERVING THESE YOUNG ADULTS.”

GLENN ERVIN
PROJECT ENGINEER
CITY OF RALEIGH

“ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE IS A WELL-DOCUMENTED NEED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND STATE. EMPTY FRAMES’ PROPOSED OVERTURE PROJECT OFFERS A SAFE AND CARING ALTERNATIVE FOR THESE YOUTH TO BEGIN THAT TRANSITION INTO A FULFILLING INDEPENDENT LIFE. ADDING THE UNIQUE DIMENSION TO ‘TELL THEIR OWN STORY’, AND PERHAPS SHARE IT WITH OTHERS, PROVIDES A PROCESS FOR PRODUCTIVE HEALING FOR THEM AS WELL AS ENLIGHTENMENT FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. PARTNERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING HUMANS IN NC SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL.”

PATRICIA WITT & RUTH RELOS
CO-FOUNDERS – PARTNERS AGAINST
TRAFFICKING HUMANS

HISTORY

Our mission is to empower orphaned and vulnerable youth as they transition out of state care, by providing a safe haven for these young adults to learn how to proactively prepare for life's next steps.

Empty Frames Initiative (EFI) was inspired during a mission internship to Latvia by the founder Miriam Cobb. As she traveled throughout Latvia working with teens and young adults, she noticed many vacant, abandoned, and decaying buildings, most of which were left behind from Soviet occupation. Upon meeting the youth to whom she was ministering, she recognized the similarities between not only these young adults, who were often alone and uncared for, but people in general and the buildings scattered around the countryside. Both were meant for a larger purpose. Both were certainly capable of redemption, though all are broken. Both beautiful in their own unique way, especially when one looked closely at the design and creator. Through this prism, the seed of EFI was planted.

Miriam attended a Project 21 Conference in southern California in July 2015. This conference drew out the vision of redeeming the Latvian buildings for the purpose of providing a safe haven for the abandoned and neglected youth in Eastern Europe. These buildings that were ignored or remembered with a feeling of unease could be renewed. A restoration with a new purpose. With community involvement every step of the way, these buildings could be a place where young adults would learn valuable life skills, be mentored by the local business community, and be loved unconditionally by local churches who understood pure and undefiled religion. The leaders of Project 21 awarded Miriam's vision as one of the top entrepreneur ideas of the conference.

As the business plan was being created for EFI, new perspectives came into view. Gathering data and vast amounts of research to develop her ideas into reality revealed the need for a similar program here in the United States. Orphan care organizations in Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina confirmed many ideas and were excited to have access to EFI's Overture Program, and so the paradigm shifted.

MANY PEOPLE WORKING IN OR WITH SOCIAL SERVICES HAVE STATED THE NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM. ADVOCATE GROUPS IN THE FOSTER COMMUNITY HAVE PARTNERED WITH EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE FOR PROJECTS, AGAIN CONFIRMING THE VALIDITY AND UNDERSTANDING THE NEED OF THIS TYPE OF COMMUNITY. THE GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE SENATE OF NC, HAS BEEN MADE MORE AWARE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE, AND ARE WORKING TO CHANGE THE LAWS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE STABILITY, INCLUDING A LONGER TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THESE YOUNG ADULTS. BY PARTNERING WITH SEVERAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ALREADY IN PLACE, SUCH AS SAYSO, CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY, HOPE+VINE, AND UNFAULTED, AS WELL AS THE WORKING CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE OVERTURE PROGRAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE LIVES, AS WELL AS SOCIETY ITSELF.



Founder / Director
Miriam Cobb

Empty Frames Initiative is inspired and driven by the heart of the Father. I believe everyone is created with a purpose, and that each individual has immense worth. This is the key value of our program, as we look to affirm with each participant that their lives have enormous potential.



ONLY BELIEVE



EMPTY



FRAMES
initiative

www.FillingEmptyFrames.org