

EMPTY



FRAMES
initiative

EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE IS BASED IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA. OUR HOME STATE HAD CUSTODY OF 9,859 CHILDREN AT THE END OF 2014. **IT'S ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 500 AND 700 KIDS AGE OUT OF FOSTER CARE ANNUALLY IN NC.** EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE SEES A NEED AND OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT THESE KIDS 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 LOOK TO CHALLENGE CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS BY SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES AND INVITING PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN FILLING EMPTY FRAMES. WE CARRY AN INTERNATIONAL VISION AND, BY THE LORD'S GRACE, WE ARE BEGINNING IN RALEIGH, NC.



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What's in a Name?

Empty Frames Initiative began as a dream to capture the joy of adoption through photography. It expanded into the idea of teaching orphaned youth photography, to instill the truth that they are valuable and their perspective is needed. It has grown into a non-profit that empowers orphans as they "age out" of state care to tell their stories, find hope in Christ and write the next chapters of their lives in confidence. Photos tell our stories and Empty Frames Initiative looks to equip a generation to fill empty frames with a life of purpose. Leaning on this poetic vision, Empty Frames Initiative plans to transform abandoned buildings into facilities to run our programs. **Our hope is that these "Empty Frames" will serve as reminders that all things can be renewed and that the past, while it may be broken, can lend itself to beautiful beginnings.**

The Need

"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.

As we've researched and collaborated with other nonprofits in North Carolina we have found that there's a huge need for a program dedicated to the pre-transition stage. **In order to fully take advantage of transitional housing or job opportunities, youth aging out of foster care often need instruction on independent living.** We feel that Empty Frames Initiative can provide a program and temporary housing for this underserved population. Our goal is to run a 3 month intensive program with 4 to 5 students at a time. This bootcamp style training, titled "Overture" would take place in a home environment with counselors, teachers and community members participating.

Our Team

Our board covers a diverse range of interests, from business owners to advocates, all coming together to make this a reality.

The volunteer base we have to put on the program will come largely from churches in the Raleigh Area. The manpower and willingness of churches in our area lends itself to the community development we are wanting to see happen through our program.

