



Young people enter foster care for a variety of reasons. Sometimes a parent dies. Young people know that drug and alcohol addiction have become an epidemic in our country, and many times parents can't care for their kids because of an addiction. Unfortunately, some children experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse in their home.

But kids who are in foster care are there through no fault of their own. You already knew that... Now it's time for the rest of America to catch up.

Here's where you come in.

A large, light grey silhouette of a girl and a boy stands in the background. The girl is on the left, holding a plate, and the boy is on the right. The text 'how to BAND TOGETHER' is written in a small, grey, sans-serif font above a horizontal line, and the word 'YOUTH' is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font below the line, overlapping the silhouettes.

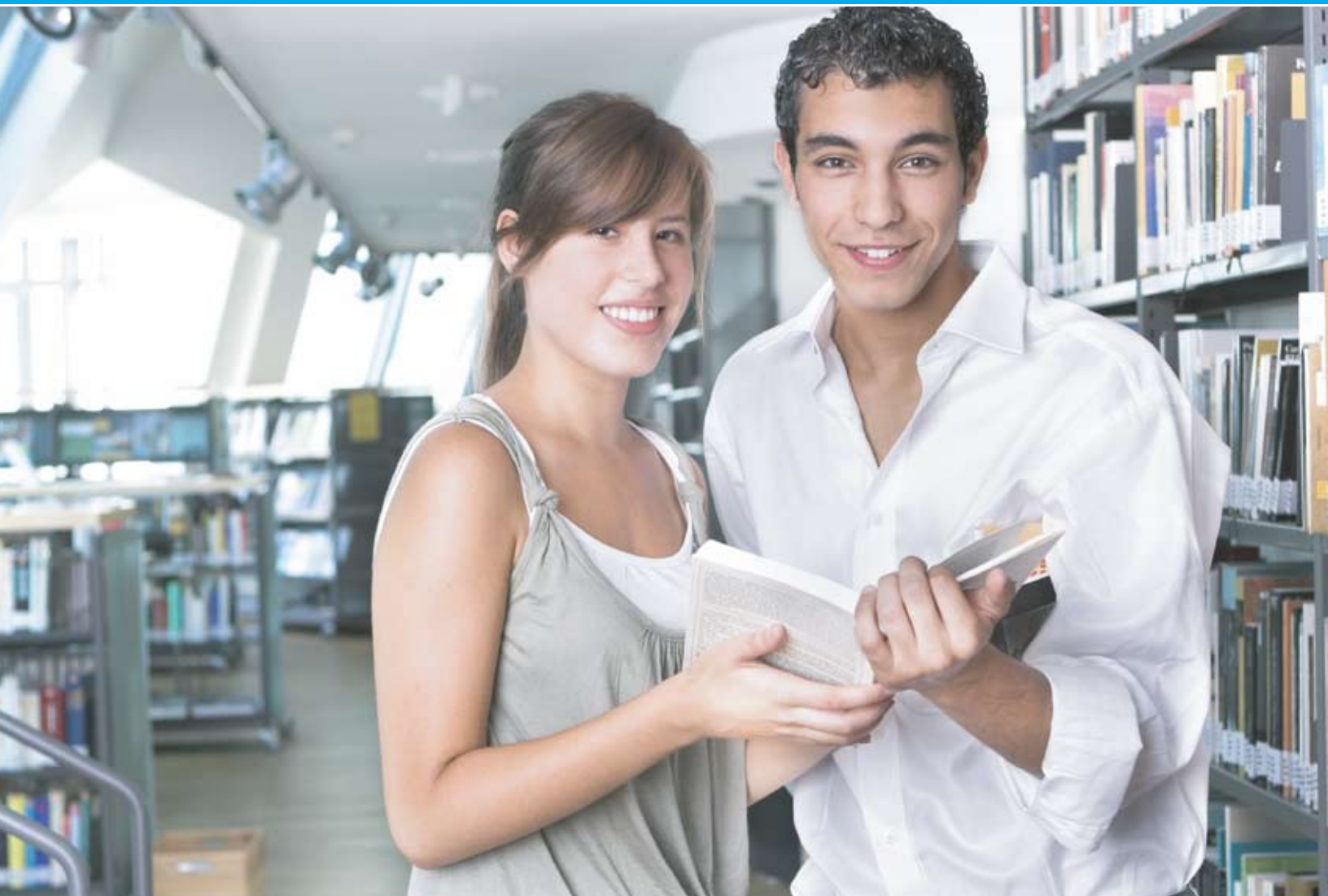
how to BAND TOGETHER YOUTH

You can help raise awareness and resources to improve life for young people in foster care. First of all, **understand** the issue of foster care. You'll find tools on the bandtogether.org website... or set out to do your own research. Next, **serve**. Figure out what is that you can do to make a difference. Lastly, **speak out**. Help spread the word: talk to your friends, show your support through your MySpace or Facebook page, discuss the issue with your parents or other caring adults you know.

We need you. Your friends and your peers who are in foster care need you. The children of America who are experiencing abuse and neglect right now need you — to step up and take action, because they can't.

Whether you decide to take action on your own or recruit a group of friends to work with you, when you BAND TOGETHER, you are sending a message to the adults of America that young people deserve to live free from abuse, neglect and abandonment and that it is society's responsibility to provide what they need for a chance at a happy future.

The follow pages contain just a few examples of how you can BAND TOGETHER. Get creative — put your own plan together. Log on to the website for even more ideas. Then register your project at www.bandtogether.org and let your voice be heard.



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UNDERSTAND

Know the Facts

The foster care system is complicated, but young people who care will invest the time it takes to understand the issues. Our Foster Care Fact Sheets provide youth-friendly information.

Talk it Out

Talk about it. Organize a movie night that features a film with a foster care theme. Or suggest a foster care-related book for an assignment at school or as your next book club selection. We have a suggested reading list and movies that explore life in foster care. After you've done the reading or watched the movie, organize a fun group activity using one of our Discussion Guides. Invite a speaker from your local foster care agency to talk to your class or youth group.

School Your Friends

Want to make sure your friends get it, too? Suggest to a Teacher, Scout Leader or to your Youth Pastor that they build a class around one of the Band Together Lesson Plans.

Tools and resources can be downloaded from www.bandtogether.org

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Community Service Projects

This is where young people can make a real difference in providing a better life for children in foster care: Join with the Orphan Foundation in knitting red scarves to include in care packages for foster youth away at college. Create a colorful display of pinwheels in your community to raise awareness about the number of kids in foster care. You'll find these ideas and many more at www.bandtogether.org.

Write to Congress

There is no better way to serve your country and community than to participate in our democratic political process. Let our country's policy-makers hear what you have to say, and help to make child welfare a national priority. Log on to www.bandtogether.org and use one of the templates to communicate your message to Congress.

Tools to Get You Started

Log on and explore Community Service Projects that you can tackle on your own or with a group of friends. Then register your project and start making a difference! You'll find all the tools you need on the website, including donation forms and other fundraising tools.

Tools and resources can be
downloaded from
www.bandtogether.org



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123 SPEAK OUT

Go Digital

Post Band Together backgrounds and foster care facts on your MySpace page. Use an image for your IM icon. Add a foster care SigLine to your e-mail signature. And if you're a real techie with your very own webpage, add a Band Together link and help us spread the word.

Reach Out

There are so many ways to use your voice and demonstrate your support of children in foster care! Reach out to even more people by sending an ePostcard. Download fliers and post them in your community. Use one of the Band Together Powerpoint templates to create a presentation in your community.

Wear the Cause

Wear the signature Band Together blue ring band (make your own using blue drummer's or painter's tape or order our silicone version). Download graphics to make your own iron-on transfer for your favorite tee. Or order other official Band Together gear from the store.