

GOALL Mission Statement

Dedicated to making life better for our peers in foster care yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

“GOALL is important to me because it gives me and others the ability to advocate for what we believe in.” - GOALL member

We Need You!

Are you a youth in care or with recent foster care experience and you're between the ages of 16 and 23? Would you like to give a voice to youth in care and help make changes throughout the state of South Carolina?

Are you a DSS provider who knows a youth with great leadership potential?

Contact the GOALL facilitator for an opportunity of a lifetime!
GOALL@sc.edu

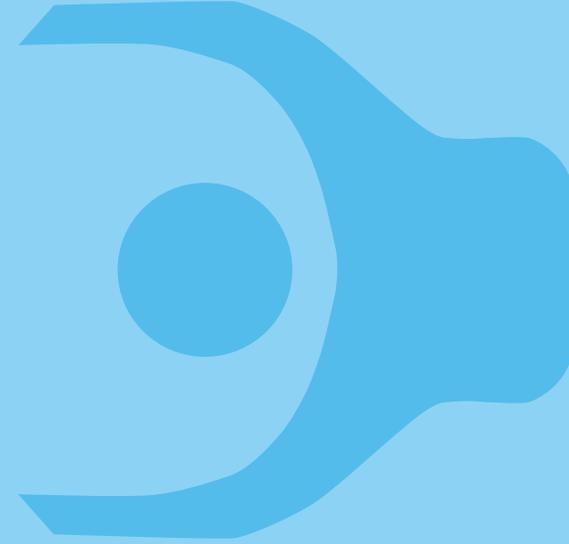
GOALL History and Membership

Go Out & Learn Life (GOALL) is the state youth advisory board for the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS). GOALL was created in by DSS in response to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act in January of 2000. This act requires states to include youth in foster care in the creation of Independent Living policies, programs & trainings.

GOALL's primary purpose is to focus on independent living programs & the needs of all youth currently in care & as they prepare to transition out of foster care.

Youth are nominated by adults who have seen the youth in leadership positions or who are believed to have leadership potential. GOALL members are selected with the help of DSS staff & staff at the Center for Child & Family Studies (CCFS) at the University of South Carolina. GOALL meets the third Saturday of every month & presents at youth group meetings & conferences throughout the state.

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Improving the Lives of Youth in Foster Care



YOUTH REPRESENTING YOUTH

The application of knowledge is true power!

GOALL's Importance

GOALL members are youth advocates who are dedicated to speaking up on behalf of youth in foster care. GOALL stays informed and shares information regarding independent living resources and services available to youth in foster care. GOALL provides an opportunity for its members and SCDSS affiliates to improve the foster care system and work towards a higher goal of effective change.

GOALL Contributions

Each year GOALL members identify a list of improvement opportunities for the foster care system, and they use their monthly meetings to brainstorm, research, and problem-solve. GOALL members present their recommendations to key decision makers, and as a result, members of GOALL have made significant contributions to the child welfare system in South Carolina.

Bill of Rights

GOALL continues to work to find new and effective ways to help youth advocate for themselves. GOALL has created a Bill of Rights for South Carolina children and youth in foster care. Not every state has a Bill of Rights for youth, and this document not only protects the rights of children and youth in foster care, but it also gives them a point of reference to use in articulating what these important rights are. A copy of the Bill of Rights can be found at www.nytdstayconnected.com under Resources. Be in the know and print a copy today!

"I have learned that no matter how hard it may get or how young you are, you have a voice, so use it."

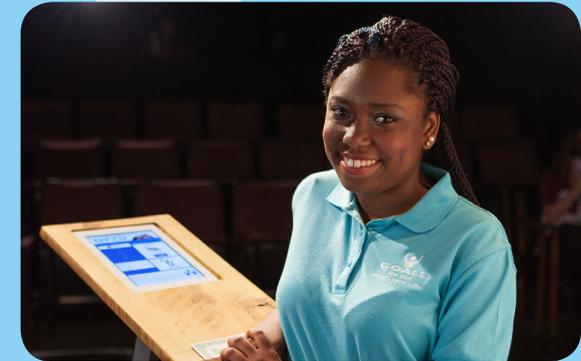


"There is sunshine at the end of the journey. Things do change."

GOALL Workshops

GOALL members act as leaders in many public forums, most notably at conferences hosted by SCDSS and its partners. GOALL workshops bring together youth in foster care, caseworkers, foster parents, group home staff, and policymakers with the goal of generating productive discussion about ways to help youth transition from care to independence. GOALL members facilitate the conversation and make sure the voices of youth are heard and understood.

A Chance to Reach their Fullest Potential



"I learn things every time I come to a GOALL meeting. The deepness and expressional knowledge that I take from these meetings I will treasure the rest of my life."

For Additional Information

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