

Mockingbird Times



Recipient of 2005 Congressional Angels in Adoption Award
Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth.

October 2007

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak Out Across the Nation

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Visit us online at www.mockingbirdsociety.org or call 206-323-KIDS (5437)

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The Mockingbird Society 2007 Annual Luncheon BY JESSICA MARTIN

The Mockingbird Society's first annual friend-raising and fund-raising benefit luncheon was held on October 2, 2007 at

Qwest Field. The day was about good news instead of all the bad news and sad stories we think of when we think of the foster care system. Because of support from things like the luncheon and people's help, every day we're



Stephanie Swallow, Hub Home Parent, and Jamica Henderson, Youth LEAD Alumna, presented at the luncheon.

getting closer to a world class foster system by moving youth from victims to advocates.

Before the luncheon started, I walked into the room where it was to be held. Sixty elegant tables were set up, each with settings for eight people. Delicious looking salads with chicken slices, dried cranberries, bleu cheese crumbles and walnuts sat on each plate. Colorful chocolates donated by Seattle Chocolates scattered on the tables brought a lot of festivity. Nap-

kins were folded in with orange Mockingbird papers with pictures of children to remind people that the children were why they were there.

People began filing in and, next thing I knew, nearly every seat was filled up! Community leaders and members were there who are interested, involved and invested in The Mockingbird Society's work and mission in building a world class foster system in Washington State. Everybody seemed very friendly. Even though I knew almost no one, many smiley faces were flying all over.

People quieted down and began eating as Jim Theofelis began speaking, thanking everyone for coming and explaining the importance of the luncheon. Next, Jamica Henderson went up to the podium to tell a

story of her life and dealing with the foster care system from within as well as from the outside. She continued her speech telling everyone how Mockingbird has helped her and made a difference in her life.

This event would not have been made possible without the help and support from our co-chairs: Connie Ballmer and Sheri Schultz.



Over 500 people attended The Mockingbird Society's first annual benefit luncheon.

Also our event sponsors Microsoft, Detlef Schrempf Foundation, KMG Consulting,

Ewing & Clark Inc., and Fleischmann Office Interiors, as well as our table sponsors helped make the event happen. Another important sponsor was Graf-fix, Inc., who did all of our signage.

Because of all our sponsors and support, 500 people attended our luncheon, while only 250 were expected when we did the original planning. We were able to raise nearly \$300,000 that day which will all go toward our Youth Lead and Mockingbird Family Model programs.



L-R) Alan Rothblatt, Board President; Howard Schultz; Sheri Schultz, Co-chair; Jim Theofelis, Executive Director and Founder.



2007 Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver's Conference BY JAMICA HENDERSON

The 2007 Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver's Conference was a very powerful three day event and a great chance for

foster parents, private agency staff and social workers to meet one another. This year's conference was held in Ocean Shores, Washington. It was the time of year for foster parents to get together and talk about the support and resources that are available to foster parents and how to know what to look for. It was exciting to see foster parents who really cared about their kids and wanted to see a better life for them.

One thing that was different about this conference was there were a lot of resources available to youth who will soon be aging out of the system. A lot of the parents came just for that cause. Many of them had teenage youth who would soon be aging out and they didn't want to see them homeless.

There were workshops on many different levels including one for youth who may be about to age out of the system but do not have enough credits to graduate. This workshop was called *Transitioning Youth into Adulthood: Collaborating for Success*. This was a very good resource for those who have foster kids in that situation. The program has been a great success and has increased the number of youth who age out with a GED or high school completion certificate.

Wrap-Around Services and Your Child, led by the Washington Association of Family-based Treatment Services (WAFTS), was a workshop focused on helping foster parents

to understand the meaning of wrap-around services. Wrap-around services are provided to children with serious emotional and mental issues to help them stay in their foster homes (e.g., treatment and personal support services). This workshop taught foster parents



Youth Representative Jessica Martin, Youth LEAD Alumna Jamica Henderson, and Youth LEAD Coordinator Najja Morris present to foster parents and social workers at the 2007 Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver Conference.

what these services look like and how to get them. This program is fairly new and has been a good support to the parents with children who need these types of services.

The next day I went to a workshop for foster parents who needed help with foster children with behavioral problems called *En-*

gaging Adolescents. This workshop was led by Jim Theofelis, Executive Director of The Mockingbird Society and covered relationship building, verbal de-escalation and behavioral modification skills development. These parents wanted to see a change in their foster children and to become the best parents they can be.

On the third day, I presented with The Mockingbird Society's Youth LEAD program. Our session was called *Foster Youth Speak-Out, Advocate and Change Lives*. This session was very powerful. Every time I present with my job it's powerful but this experience was a little different. This year we had a lot of social workers and only a few parents. It was exciting to see social workers in our workshop. You could tell that they were interested and ready to learn how to be supportive of youth in the foster care system.

The most powerful part of the workshop was when we did a group exercise called Step Forward or Step Back; the outcome was amazing! During this exercise, people moved forwards or backwards in the room depending on how they answered the question the presenter gave.

At the end, there were a lot of people in the front and a lot of people in the back. It was powerful to me because a lot of the people who were in our workshop grew up with both parents and had never experienced foster care. They learned that the foster care system is real. A lot of the people learned where we are coming from and felt what it's like to be in our shoes.



Letter From the Editor BY JIM THEOFELIS

We had hoped for 250 people and a fund raising goal of \$150,000 at our first ever Luncheon held on October 2nd at Qwest Field in Seattle. Both the number of attendees and the financial goal would have exceeded any fund raising activity we had ever conducted. Lo and behold, 500 of our very best friends joined us for a remarkable afternoon and raised nearly \$300,000 to continue our work of building a world class foster care system.

It really was an amazing event and I am so appreciative to all those who attended, volunteered and donated. A very special "Thank-You" goes to our event co-chairs **Connie Ballmer** and **Sheri Schultz** for all their hard work and for presenting at the event. I also want to thank **Jamica Henderson**, **Stephanie Swallow** and **Dr. Wanda Hackett** for their wonderful presentations as well. Of course, The Mockingbird Society staff and volunteers were fantastic and the room was absolutely beautiful.

At the luncheon, I was able to announce some special news that The Mockingbird Society, in conjunction with the **University of Washington's Partnership for Our Children** and the **Washington State Children's Administration**, will take the first step in conducting a rigorous research study on the Mockingbird Family Model. This is very exciting news and follows the promising results documented in prior evaluations conducted by the **Northwest Institute for Children and Families** which are located on our Web site. At this point, it is in the preliminary stage of discussions but we will continue to update the *Mockingbird Times* readers on this project.

Happy Halloween and be safe, be well, and thrive!

Jim Theofelis

jim@mockingbirdsociety.org



Movie Review: *The Kingdom* by Andrea Roldan

The opening scenes of the *Kingdom*, a film directed by Peter Berg, are fast-paced and rich with content about the history between the United States and Saudi Arabia (and other Middle-Eastern countries), focusing primarily on the importance of oil distribution between the two nations and its effects on both country's economies. Included are facts such as dates of important oil discoveries, previous oil embargos, trade laws, and significant events that affect the relationship between the two countries, such as terrorist attacks.

The first scene is the setting of a brutal massacre. In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on a sunny afternoon the city is alive. Children and adults both are engaged in a baseball game and others are moving about in the nearby streets. Then the explosives are ignited. While drawing attention to the ballpark where the bomb exploded, and causing mass confusion as people scramble toward safety and separated families search for each other, two men who are involved with the conspiracy begin a rampage of murder with machine guns down the streets. This scene is really intense and may be emotional for the viewer.

In the movie, Americans are stationed in Saudi Arabia, building business rela-

tions with the prince of Riyadh, protecting oil trade, and assisting the security forces of Saudi Arabia to find the group of terrorists, led by Abu Ramza, who disagree with the American oil trade. After learning about the explosion, FBI Special Agent Ronald Fleury (Jamie Foxx), recruits a deployment team to enter the grounds of Saudi Arabia immediately to investigate the bombing. Forensic Examiner, Janet Mayes (Jennifer Garner) is very sad because Francis Manner, head of FBI, died in Riyadh. Fleury tries to calm her and then whispers something into her ear that seems to relieve her loss. Other members of the deployment team speculate about what he told her.

KINGDOM, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The Mockingbird Society: The Story Behind the Name

The 1962 American classic *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is the inspiration for our name, **The Mockingbird Society**. Atticus, the widowed father of Jem and Scout, joins Miss Maudie in teaching his kids that it's a sin to kill a mockingbird because "...Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't do one thing but sing their hearts out

for us."

What if we created an organization, a community, indeed a world, in which our most vulnerable children and youth were protected and valued with the same commitment that Atticus had for mockingbirds? Join The Mockingbird Society today and help us give young people a safe place to nest and sing.

ABOUT US: *The Mockingbird Society* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation developing innovative models for improving the outcomes of foster care, while advocating with decision makers for system reform. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation. *The Mockingbird Times* is a monthly newspaper written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of *The Mockingbird Society* are paid between \$8 and \$11 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, and poetry and are compensated up to \$25 per published piece. *The Mockingbird Times* has a monthly circulation of 50,000 copies being distributed across Washington State and the USA, through a private distribution list and as an insert in *Real Change*, a Seattle-based community newspaper. Youth involvement is the key to the philosophy, values, and success of *The Mockingbird Society* and, as such, youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. Donations to *The Mockingbird Society* may be tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. No part of *The Mockingbird Times* may be reproduced without the written permission of *The Mockingbird Society*. All contents copyright ©2007, *The Mockingbird Society*.

Become a Member of The Mockingbird Society

We welcome you to join us in making a difference in the lives of our nation's most vulnerable children, youth, and families. As a supporter, you'll receive a monthly edition of the *Mockingbird Times*. Thank you for your contribution.

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Meet the Staff: Shayna M. Harris



My name is Shayna Marie Harris. I am twenty-three years old and I am from Seattle, Washington. I like to read, write, watch movies, dance, and hang out with the few friends I have. I grew up in the foster care system and, in a way, I am still part of it.

At the age of three, I was taken away from my biological mother who was suffering from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. I was placed with a family member who abused me in any way a kid could be abused. I was placed in six more foster homes until I was finally placed in a permanent foster home at the age of three. From three to eight I was in the home as a foster kid and then I was adopted at age eight. There I was abused some more for eight years.

I started running away at age ten and, after several failed attempts, I was placed back into the foster care system at age twelve. I ended up going to several foster homes and group homes, my grades started slipping, and I began to run away from all of my problems, big and small. I got put in jail for a year after having a fight in a group home. In that year, I learned how to control some of my anger.

I obtained a GED while at Echo Glen when I was sixteen. I was released in 2000 and placed in a foster home that was pretty cool, but, because I didn't want to get close to my foster mom, I bolted. It was hard for me when I started to get close to foster parents because sometimes I would come home and my stuff would be packed up and I never knew when that would happen. So, each time I did get close or started to, I would run away so I wouldn't get hurt again.

I got pregnant with my daughter Nyasia on the run. She became a foster kid also, due to the fact that I was still a foster

kid on the run from the police and case-workers. I had another daughter when I was twenty-two and I am proud to say, she has not entered the system. I've been on and off the streets for a number of years and still haven't been able to live in a stable situation. These days, I am a single mom who is still fighting the system. How am I fighting it? I lost my first daughter to the system after not having the proper resources to take care of her. I have not seen her in three years but I am fighting for my right to do so.

I settled a lawsuit in 2006 against the state of Washington about multiple placements. I have also talked to other foster kids who have suffered in the system about what they can do for justice. I want to make all aware of how the system can be good as well as bad and how to change how the system works. I believe that all foster parents should have psychiatric evaluations once a year. Among other things, the state should ensure that all foster kids receive proper counseling. They should also require 100% participation in parenting and independent living classes for foster kids, so that when they age out they know how to live life responsibly.

I want to be a part of The Mockingbird Society because I believe that their program provides a voice for people like me and also provides knowledge and opportunities for me to live up to my goals of making some changes to the foster care system. I am very thankful to the Youth LEAD program for giving me a chance, even at this age, to work with them and have the opportunity to change my life and the lives of others as well.

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Operations Manager
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Youth Representatives
Leona Bill, Jessica Garcia,
Shayna M. Harris, Vanessa Hutt,
Jessica Martin, Andrea Roldan,
Mellissa Stringer

Contributing Writers

Diamond, Sherrell Dorsey, Doug,
Jenette, Rhonda Smith

Event Planning Assistant
Kim Callahan

Volunteers
Chrissie Jackson

Layout
Kelly Hawkins



My Senior Year BY SAMUEL MARTIN

Recently, I began my senior year of high school. I thought about how I could continue to participate at The Mockingbird Society, during this very busy year. We thought it would be cool for me to monologue my senior year. I will hopefully be able to express what I am going through and, hopefully, I will help other seniors after myself in more ways than one. I am opening myself to all of you readers and it would be great if you went along for the ride with me.

In very early September, I had a lot of trouble with decisiveness. I knew that school was right around the corner but I didn't know what I was going to do. I had the choice of either continuing Running Start, going back to Rainier Beach, or, quite possibly, both. The advantage of Running Start was that I would be able to take continue to take college classes and get my Associates Degree by the time I graduate from high school. That would be great because I could cut down college time while also gaining a bunch of college experience. At the same time, I wanted to be at my high school for my senior year. You only get one senior year. You can see why I was torn. At the same time, I was unmotivated; I didn't really want to be at school at all. I had a hard time keeping up with football, too. I even wanted to stop working. I had lost all my energy and my spark.

Eventually, I got back to Rainier Beach, which was actually very fulfilling after a year of not being there at all while I was doing Running Start. I had a chance to see some familiar faces and be in a great environment. Also, on the first day, King 5 news came to do an interview on me summarizing my life. It was a good couple of

first weeks except I couldn't get myself to go to football practice at all. I was beginning to quit, knowing that this could potentially be the biggest season of my career. The biggest question was if I would ever find the motivation before it was too late.

Around the middle of September, I went to a retreat for the mentoring programing I am in which is a called Community for Youth. This was the exact spark of motivation that I needed to have. I learned a lot about how I act and how I needed to not quit what I start. It also taught me that if I quit today, I will quit tomorrow. I learned that quitting can almost become second nature. If you let it become a habit, you turn around 20 years later and find that you have gone through three jobs a year. That is not a life style that anybody should want to live. Right after that, I began to go to football practice again. Even though it has been a pain to come back after missing a lot of practice, I will stick with what I start.

Another thing that I haven't decided to completely quit is Running Start. I also registered for classes and I am back at Seattle Central Community College. I just began the quarter and I am re-motivated and ready to do my absolute best. Now it is the end of the month and I am making a name for myself everywhere. Those who did not believe that I was a dependable student see now that I am capable. Slowly but surely, I am showing my coaches that I have the commitment to play football. I, by no means, am the best player on the football team but as Daniel Carnegie said, "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." I felt that about school

and football but now I have hope that will truly stick with me.

Who knows where these next 9 months will lead me? But it is an honor and a pleasure to be taking all of you along on the journey. Now, I truly do feel that my fire has been regained. As we approach this upcoming month, I will hope to complete-

ly finish my first college application and I will also have a few more games. There are a lot of big questions. Will I ever be a starter for football? Will I get into the colleges I want? Am I going to be able to stay completely positive about life? Who knows, no one ever really does, but all we can do is do our best and remain steadfast.

"Motivation is a fire from within. If someone else tries to light that fire under you, chances are it will burn very briefly."

~ Stephen R. Covey

KINGDOM, CONT. FROM PAGE 2

The deployment team has five days to uncover information that can be useful towards finding out who killed their friend. Upon arriving in Saudi Arabia, each member of the deployment team utilizes their specialized skills and they begin to unravel clues that lead them and the chaperoning security team closer to Ramza. Initially, the crew members face many obstacles; not only related to completing their mission but also it is a challenge to understand and respect each other. These are people of different races, cultures, religions and regions. But we see growth in each character; internally and externally, when relating with each other. Respect is built upon understanding and understanding grows upon communication. Members of the team must practice effective communication skills to complete the task.

A friendship is founded between Fleury and Saudi Arabian Colonel Fans Al Ghazi, leader of the security unit ordered to protect the deployment team while in Riyadh. They discuss their lives beyond their mission; their families, dreams, and ambitions and they find that they share many similarities. The crew continues to unravel more information, even from a man who retired from creating bombs with Ramza. His reason for retiring: "You stop [killing] only when dead faces won't let you sleep." When one of the crew members is kidnapped by members of the terrorist group, the rest of the team follows on a high speed chase and the action really

begins, eventually leading to the building where he is held captive, and the leader of the terrorists, Abu Ramza, resides.

Whether you argue this movie is for pure entertainment or (loosely) based on the War on Terror, there are some scenes which reflect reality. Propaganda is encouraged toward the public and people who possess power use it to abuse and manipulate others.

It is clear in the movie that, with the way the characters think, this cycle of war between two opponents, will continue to reinvent itself. As long as revenge is the foundation, it creates motivation. As long as there is a struggle for power and one side refuses to surrender to peace, there will always be an inheritor of the struggle, sons or daughters who continue the war, as their predecessor did.

With this reality, can a mental and/or emotional confrontation with oneself come when considering how a war between opposing sides can be brought to an end? What would it take? It would take one side to surrender pride and power for peace and understanding, and the other to agree instead of using power to oppress. The uncertainty of which may come after surrendering is probably what encourages each side to continue to fight; by expecting the worse, the latter, they find reason within their beliefs to continue to fight. The Kingdom is sure to move its audience because of its content and the reality of the War on Terror outside of the movie theatre walls.

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We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our event co-chairs, **Connie Ballmer** and **Sheri Schultz**. Their commitment and involvement in The Mockingbird Society has helped us raise awareness and broaden our community of supporters. Through their generous contributions of time and resources, building a world-class foster care system is possible.

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The Mockingbird Society would like to thank all of the extraordinary community members and donors who made our first annual benefit luncheon a huge success. Because of the compassion and commitment of nearly 500 guests in attendance, we raised **\$282,850** to support youth and families in the foster care system.

Thank you again for your time, resources and generosity!

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Cattywampus Fabulous Lashes 5

DOUG

4 in the morning and its makeup time. Daddy long leg lashes, long but not full. "I seen it all, bonfires of trust, flash floods of pain." Now when I say I've seen it all, I mean, I've seen it all. I've been through it all from abuse to addiction, from nothing to something to fabulous homo that nobody got nothing on. But for now everything is just dandy. So I'll just throw on 5 lashes and go on w/ life, but if life gets Cattywampus then whatever it ain't nothing I haven't seen before...

DrAmAfUILnEsS

DIAMOND

Crazy/Lost/Abandoned/Left behind/and/Dropped off
My life is a drama full ADVENTURE.....
Oh My Goodness
Pretty Pretty Princess
\$500 boots
And Fabulousness
Happy life
Too
No money/No Job/Lost the bar
Broken Home/No more happy family
No Joke
No mommy
No daddy
Where's brother???
DRAMAFULLNESS

Was lost

RHONDA SMITH

Crazy family addictions
Mom dad drugs jail prison
Abandoned and rejected
Now I am found
Juvenile state foster homes group homes
Scared abused worthless
Fighting anger and hate
Now I am found
Depression hurt pain tears
Lost and betrayed
Mostly afraid
Now I am found
Hatred deep inside
Hurt from past
Hidden tears cried
With pain deep inside
Now I am found
Real crazy unique female
Caring proud expressive learner
Special likable kind friend
NOW I AM FOUND!!!!!!

Untitled

JENETTE

I look out the world of my despair, born unremembered. I look at the angles in which the wind is bending me. Hearing the voices of my defeat, begging not to make me weep. Wishing it was silent, so I can have a clear thought. Reminiscing about my past. Stiletto heels to high top gear, to showing all my fears.

Born to remember, born to be told, but born not to be forgotten. I sit in a melody, in which my elbows and joints relax. Home at last, home at last, god save me, home at last. I look around me and only see me, why is that when there's about ten other people around me. Born to turn out like my mother, a sister to another sister, a cousin to another cousin. Broken heart for a man.

I am a street girl, a black girl, a mixed girl, a fashion model in my own body. I hear giggles in the background, but they do not disturb me. Blocked in between 4 walls, 4 pages, 4 memories, wishing that car would have hit me. Memory of hate. New beginning, decomposing, scented rose to blistered feet. I came in this world alone; I guess I have to fight this bloody war on my own.

Showing my real color, wishing I was purple. Taking a petal from a flower. Remembering.

Remembering, what I learned, remembering what I have become. Remembering, what struck me hurt me. I hear u god! I really do! I guess now it's time to just wake up. Wake up to reality were it's not only me, it's you.

There are two things to aim at in life; first to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind has achieved the second.

~ Logan Pearsall Smith



Immediately his clothes give him away: slightly baggy jeans, fitted cap, and graphic t-shirt. He is a walking advertisement for hip hop or at least what we, as an audience, perceive hip hop to be. But underneath the surface of the clothes and Brooklyn accent, Chris "Kazi" Rolle is much more than your ordinary hip hop artist. He is an entrepreneur and mentor inspiring troubled youth aspiring to be rappers to change the content of their lyrics from drugs, money and women, into words of truth, inspiration and pain.

Through his program, the Hip Hop Project, Rolle has partnered with Russell Simmons, Bruce Willis and other celebrities to help these youth record their own record. The documentary of the hip hop project was released in May of 2007. The following is an interview Rolle granted me and the Mockingbird Times.



Artist/Director Chris "Kazi" Rolle

MT: Give me brief background information about yourself.

K: I was born in Nassau, Bahamas. At six months old, my mother left me in the care of friends to venture to the United States in hopes of opportunity. At four years old, I was placed in an orphanage. After fourteen collective years in foster homes, reform schools and a brief stint in a psychiatric ward, I was reunited with my biological mother in the United States. Our reunion was short lived. I was homeless once again on the streets of New York City. For survival and protection, I connected with gangs and soon began hustling and committing petty crimes, spending several years of my life in and out of jail. Being behind bars gave me time for introspection.

Exclusive Interview: Chris "Kazi" Rolle BY SHERRELL DORSEY

At eighteen, I began writing, directing and acting for the award winning urban theater company, Tomorrow's Future. I received the CBS Fulfilling the Dream Award for my play and my work in schools and homeless shelters advocating education and drug abuse prevention.

In 1999, I created the Hip Hop Project (hiphopproject.org), an award-winning artist development/music business education program that connects New York City teens to music industry professionals to write, produce and market their own compilation album on youth issues. I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with Jay-Z, Russell Simmons, and Bruce Willis. "Mr. Die Hard" even donated a recording studio to help support the work that I was doing with the young people.

MT: How did you get involved with the Hip Hop Project?

K: In high school, there was a teacher that I connected with named Scott Rosenberg. He inspired me to teach by using things that kids are interested in. He started an organization called Art Start, an arts-education organization and gave me an opportunity to start my own program. So I use Hip Hop music to reach young people.

MT: How did you know this was something you wanted to do?

K: My foster mother was my hero. She encouraged me to read, expand my vocabulary and use my imagination. She supported my entrepreneurial endeavors and let me know that I can do anything.

MT: What advice can you give other foster care children looking to start businesses/programs?

1. Turn your pain to prosperity. When you live in foster care, you can feel that

nobody cares about you. You may feel like why me? Use that emotion. I am driven by the negative things that have happened in my life.

2. Read. Develop the ability to move away from the crowd and take the time to do research. Develop a love for information.
3. Create a plan for your life, program or business. Goals that are not written do not exist. Goals need to be placed where you constantly see them. The greatest human beings to walk the earth are the Egyptians. They wrote on the walls. Visualize having the result you desire. Create a plan to achieve it.

MT: What obstacles in your life and through starting the HHP have you had to overcome? How did you persevere?

K: My greatest obstacles I have ever faced were dealing with the disbelievers. Their doubt made me want to prove them wrong. I also surround myself with advisors and supporters to encourage and guide me.

MT: Describe a typical day for you.

K: Wake up, do my prayer, visualize and meditate; get my spirit right for the day.

Then I go to the gym or pool and work out. For the next twelve hours I will spend the day going to meetings, studio sessions, speaking engagements, live performances and workshops. At the end of the day, I spend time with my family.

MT: How do you cope with past feelings about your foster care situation? How did you learn how to forgive?

K: I still deal with them. I don't think that the feelings and the memories ever stop popping up. I don't let my past run my life. I have learned to trust. You can truly heal when you share your story. I look at the things that I have gone through and realized that I was put through the worst to become the best. This is the story of the orphan or foster child. If I hold those feelings of self pity, abandonment, low self esteem, and anger toward myself and biological parents, I am only hurting myself. By forgiving, I brush that chip off my shoulders and give myself the ability to rise.

To find out more about the hip hop project and Rolle's work visit www.HipHopProject.com and www.ChrisKaziRolle.com.

Youth Forum (YoFo) on Foster Care

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007

6:00PM—8:00 PM

Miller Community Center
330 19th Ave E.
Seattle, WA 98112

RSVP: Alexis Suib @ (206) 957-4779
x113 or alexiss@solid-ground.org

There are currently 11,000 youth in foster care on a given day.

What can you do to help?

Come and listen to stories of foster care youth and be inspired to take action.

Presented by:

Penny Harvest

a program of

