



Amazing Marley



Marley came to Friends of Youth through our residential foster care program with a male gender assignment. During her time with us, Marley expressed many questions about her gender identity. While working with Marley in her self-discovery process, we found that her Samoan heritage has traditionally accepted transgendered women in their culture, as noted in Edge Magazine's July 2011 edition:

As a sign of the cultural significance of the transgendered in their ancient society, in July, the prime minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele, met and spoke with the Samoa Fa'afafine Association, the South Pacific island nation's leading advocacy organization for the transgendered, or fa'afafine, community. ..."It is not your will that you are the way you are," Tuilaepa said during a workshop in Apia, the country's capital, according to government news

website Savali. "You are just another shining example of the glorious miracles and creations of our Lord."

Knowing this information helped Marley to express herself freely. Upon graduation, at age 18, she sent the following letter to her foster care team at Friends of Youth:

To Friends of Youth and to my loving treatment team, "I just can't say enough!"

Thanks to you all, I have accomplished so many of my goals! When I entered the Foster Home, I've received nothing but open arms, hearts, and minds that guided me to a positive and healthy lifestyle. I want to return my thank you by taking all of your advice, advocacy and love and turn it into my path to even more success that I will soon encounter. I love and appreciate all of you for turning this shy, soft-spoken girl into a confident leader! I will always remember my experience at Friends of Youth – AMAZING!

This May, we salute and celebrate our foster youth and their foster parents. They show us what it means to live life with courage, honesty and commitment. It is they who are AMAZING!

Learn more about how to be a Friends of Youth foster parent today.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month



Did you know there more than 10,000 children in foster care in Washington state?

All children need a caring community to thrive, but kids in foster care often lose that community when they enter care. It doesn't have to be that way.

There are so many ways to support a foster child. Join their team of supporters by providing a loving, caring home, to volunteering to go with them on outings and activities, supporting them with tutoring, or donating items that foster children need.

Yes, you can help!

[Click here to learn more about how you can support youth in foster care](#) or contact our foster team at fostercare@friendsofyouth.org. This May, become involved in the life of a foster child and be AMAZED.

You Can GiveBIG



GiveBIG is back, but only for one more year!

May 9th is the Seattle Foundation's annual one-day online giving campaign to support local nonprofits. [Learn more about the campaign through the Friends of Youth profile.](#)

This year is the last year to participate in GiveBIG, but you don't have to wait until May 9th to start giving big. Early giving is underway – [check out our profile and GiveBIG today!](#)

Shop and Support Friends of Youth

Did you know if you shop through our [Amazon Smile link](#) then a percentage of what you purchase will go towards Friends of Youth. Check out our [Friends of Youth Wish Lists](#) while you are making your online purchases as well!



Keep In Touch with Friends of Youth

Love working with youth? Learn how you can [join our team!](#)

With so much happening at Friends of Youth, we have many ways for you to keep up with the latest news.

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