



International Student Foundation

Educate. Mentor. Lead.

REACH CONFERENCE

"Since we never get everything we want or need from our families, we look for sufficiency in surrogates."

— Richard Brookhiser,
Founders' Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln

*“Scars have the strange
power
to remind us that our past is
real.”*
— Cormac McCarthy, *All the
Pretty Horses*

The Why
The What
The Results





The Why:

Foster Care – means instability

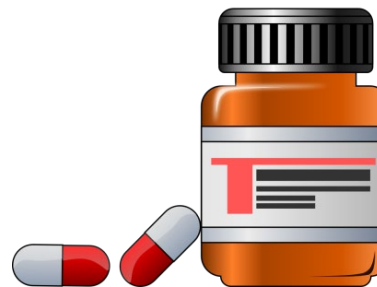
- Varied home life
 - emergency care facilities
 - foster homes
 - group homes
 - juvenile detention facilities
- Frequent moves
 - 1-2 per year
 - 10+ times between entering and aging out



This instability in home life results in trauma –

and makes it difficult to establish relationships, succeed in school

So... what happens when youth age out?



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Unlikely to go to college...



Aged Out of Foster Care

- no 4 year college
- attend college, not graduate
- graduate college



- **Over 20,000 foster care students age out each year.**
- **Less than 3% will earn a college degree.**
- **But more than 80% of ISF students will earn a degree.**

- why?





Providing
the
support to
allow for
success

ISF is changing the narrative for youth in three ways:

- **Scholarships**

ISF scholarship funds cover many necessary expenses, allowing students to earn their college degree.

- **Mentoring**

ISF students receive a one-on-one mentor to guide them through life decisions, college, and planning for their futures.

- **Leadership**

ISF students can participate in an annual leadership conference in Dallas and are given the opportunity to join a mission trip serving orphans in resource-challenged areas.



ISF Students have already beaten many odds

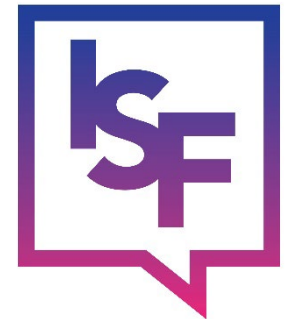
Decided to rise up and go to college



Many driven with desire to help foster youth

Want to break the cycle, be the advocate

- Social work
- Psychology
- Law (child advocacy)



“to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. “

James 1.27

The What: ISF Program Summary



**International
Student
Foundation**

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Prospective Students

Youth that have aged out of Foster Care in US

Kinship care in certain circumstances

International Orphans

Are entering an undergraduate program or trade school

23 or under at the time of application

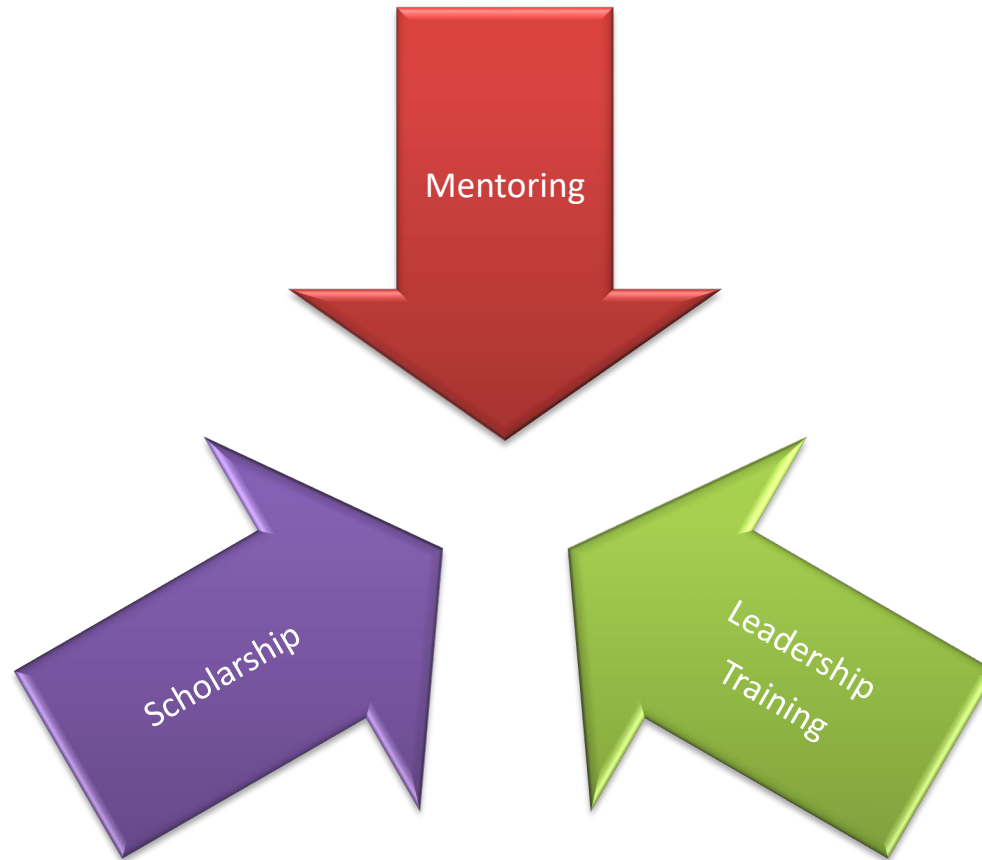
GPA 2.5+

Application: Transcript, essay, fafsa, proof of (foster care) status, recommendation letters

Due April 15th each year



Three prongs to the program:





Scholarships



ISF helps applicants and current students work through their budgets



Required to submit fafsa and get all grants and other funding available (if available)



ISF can provide some funding for any expense required to maintain full time status:

School Tuition, room and board, fees

Equipment: phones, computers, books

Other living expenses: insurance, rent car loans, data plans

Emergency help: medical, dental, car repairs

We pay the bill, not the student



ISF
Emergency
Fund



Care Packages



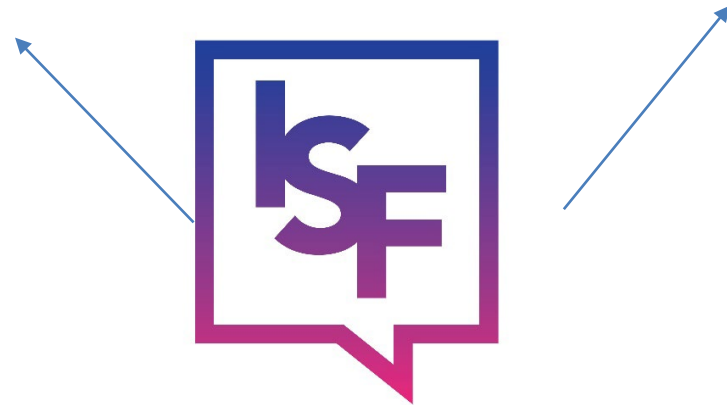


Mentoring

- Individual pairings
- Mentors are vetted and trained
- Ongoing resources and check-ins
- ISF received a grant from National Mentoring Resource Center to work with a partner agency for a year (Silver Lining Mentoring) to better develop mentoring program
- ISF mentor pairings last at least one year, and many continue for several years, lifetime relationships!

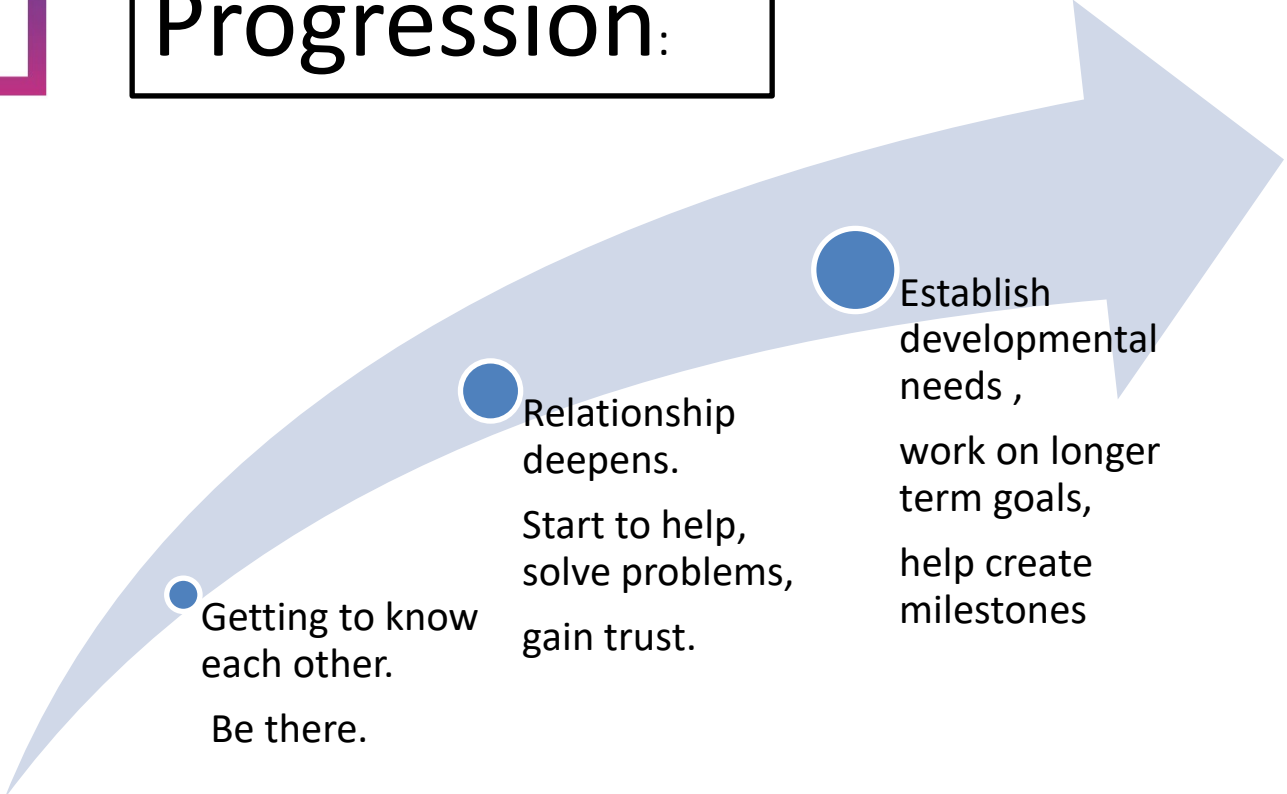


ISF Student Mentor Triangle





Mentoring Progression:



Getting to know each other.
Be there.

Relationship deepens.
Start to help, solve problems, gain trust.

Establish developmental needs ,
work on longer term goals,
help create milestones









Leadership and Life Skills



- Ultimate goal for students to launch into this world and ideally become leaders in their own community
- 3 components of ISF leadership journey:
 - Mentor development
 - Leadership & Life Skills Retreat
 - Mission Trip









Mission Trips

Prior to covid, we offered an annual International Mission Trip Experience

- Resource Challenged Country
- Visit Orphans
- Share stories

Transformative, healing experience for our students



Application process

- Application is on ISF Website:
- ISFsite.org/students
- Requirements:
 - Short answer questions:
 - Background/demographic
 - School info/where attending, major, career goals
 - Mentoring past experiences and expectations
 - Budget/needs
- Essay on overcoming obstacles/personal statement
- Photo
- Transcript
- Foster care / ward of the court letter or referral
- Optional – Letter of Recommendation





Student Renewals

ISF Students are part of the ISF family for life

Eligible to renew for support for as long as they are full time in school

Graduate School, Masters, PHD, MD, LAW

Renewal Applications

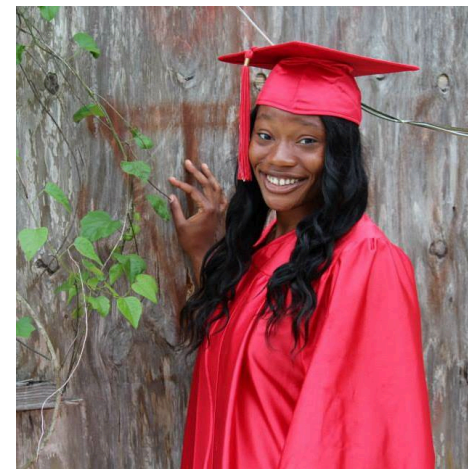
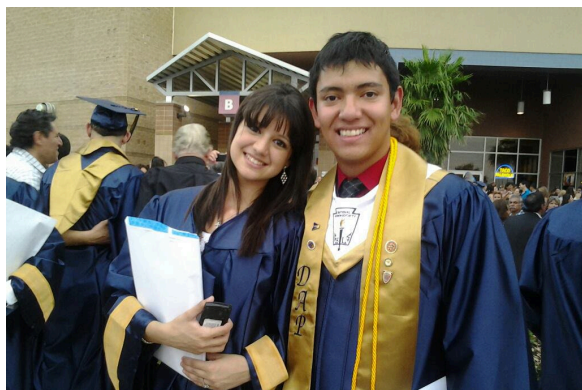
- Transcripts
- Essay
- Mentor Recommendation



Graduates!

- 80% of our students that “work” our program graduate with a 4-year degree
- Many move on for post graduate degrees







- The ISF Alumni Association was created to promote and energize long-term collaboration with the future of current and former ISF graduates in mind.
- **Professional Development**
- ISF Alumni will have the opportunity to enhance their skills as they transition from their academic careers to their professional careers.
- **Exclusive Access to Events:**
- Alumni Association members will have exclusive access to a variety of events that will allow them to connect, learn, and engage
- **Network:**
- Members will have the opportunity to connect with other former ISF graduates and seasoned professionals located across the U.S.
- Members will not only increase their professional network but that they will develop a sense of community to develop lasting relationships.



ISF-TEXAS

INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF FOSTER YOUTH IN TEXAS



Typical Program Year

- 57 STUDENTS IN 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR
 - 16 NEW
 - 40 RENEWALS
 - 1 RETURNER FROM PAST
- 19 STATES
 - 17 from Texas – Will become ISF TEXAS
- 48 UNDERGRAD, 5 MASTERS, 3 PHD, 1 JD
- 19 MALE
- 38 FEMALE
- 12 STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2023



Majoring in Business Analytics/MIS
with minor in Sign Language



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