

Why Launching Families?

Each year about 75 young people will age out of the El Paso County foster care system when they turn 18. Of those, 12 will be prepared to begin a college education. Eight will be girls.

Unfortunately, only 2% of former foster girls who go on to college will succeed in getting a 4 year degree; the rest will drop out. Without a degree, a girl's future is severely limited. While 2% is unacceptable, the problem can be solved.



The Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area has built the framework; now we need to complete it with a full complement of compassionate volunteers. You can be a part of this exciting new venture. For a relatively small effort, you can make a big difference.

For a family application or to learn more, contact:
info@ZontaPikesPeak.org

Or consult our website at ZontaPikesPeak.org/launching

 Zonta Club of
Pikes Peak Area
Member of Zonta International

The Zonta Club 'Launching Families' Program

Helping former foster girls become successful young women
with emotional support through the college years



Launching Families Program Outline

The caring volunteers of "Launching Families" create a supportive home base during the college career of a girl who grew up in the El Paso County foster system. On her own for the first time, she may have financial support but not the other things her classmates have: encouragement, roots, emotional support when the going gets tough.

The Launching Families program connects qualified volunteers with these college-bound girls and provides them with training and support. Your commitment can be for a girl's entire college career but does not have to be. Those wishing to make one- or two-year commitments are encouraged to apply.

What a launching family does:

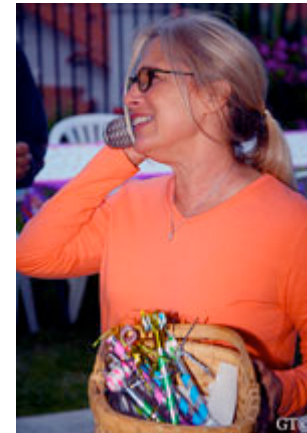
- ◆ Calls the sponsored girl frequently to check on how she is doing
- ◆ Sends occasional "care Packages" during finals week, on birthdays, etc.
- ◆ Invites her to your holiday meals
- ◆ Provides a place to stay during holiday dorm closures (not the full summer unless you so desire)
- ◆ Lends an ear, provides emotional support
- ◆ Serves as mentor, friend and, perhaps, advisor
- ◆ Provides a positive adult role model, reinforcing positive social values and a career-oriented approach to life

What a launching family does not do:

- ◆ Provide financial support
- ◆ Provide living space for longer than a school break
- ◆ Take on a "parent" role
- ◆ Insist upon any particular type of religious participation
- ◆ Become a support system for the sponsored girl's family or friends

Launching family expectations and requirements:

- ◆ Since a primary goal is to expose girls to career-oriented women, each launching family must include at least one woman and at least one college educated family member.
- ◆ Fingerprinting and background checks are required and should be completed by April 20.*
- ◆ 6 hours of training – conducted by Adolescent Services at the Dept. of Human Services. This will help families better understand the lives of these girls and be better prepared to help them.
- ◆ Participation in the Celebration of Education Event hosted by the Colorado Department of Human Services: Denver – each June.
- ◆ Get to know your new teen friend mid-June at a picnic hosted by Zonta
- ◆ Participate in optional quarterly support group gatherings.



*There is a fee for background checks that volunteers will be asked to cover. The amount was undetermined at the time of this printing. If you are not able to personally volunteer this year, you may want to make it possible for someone else to do so by making a tax-deductible donation to the sponsoring organization, Pikes Peak Area Zonta Foundation

Checks may be mailed to :

Zonta Foundation
ATTN: Launching Families
PO Box 7924
Colorado Springs, CO 80933