

Project Foster Grad is a ministry that provides gifts and some helpful necessities to students in our city who are graduating out of the foster care system. It's a small way that we can help celebrate their accomplishments and support them as they begin adult life, often without many of the support systems that we sometimes take for granted.

Here's how you can help: Read the stories of this year's graduates below, and click on the SignUp Genius form to sponsor one or more items for Project Foster Grad. You can make your donation by sending a check to the BUMC church office, or you can give online at www.bellaireumc.org/give.

Please contact Barbara Nowotny at <u>barbara@nowotnycpa.com</u> if you have questions about Project Foster Grad or want to learn more about the BUMC Community Outreach Group.

About our Graduates!

Ceci is a proud graduate of Spring Woods High School. In the fall, she'll be attending UH-Downtown to major in education. She is so grateful that she had Ms. Clay in her life (her caseworker). Because of her, Ceci looks forward to helping her future students in the same way.

Eva graduated from Magnolia High School and plans to attend UofH to major in Psychology. It's something she's always been interested in. She is most thankful for everyone who helped her along the way.

Heidi graduated from Porter High School and will be attending U of H to major in social work. She's thankful for the emotional support and guidance that she received from her caseworkers while she was in foster care. They inspired her to want to be a social worker.

Janiah graduated from Thurgood Marshall High School and will attend Lone Star College. She hopes to transfer to a 4-year university & study veterinary medicine. She chose this major because she loves animals.

Johanna is graduating from Kempner High and is planning to attend Texas Tech to major in drama. She hopes to become an actress. Johanna is proud of learning life skills such as cooking. She's most thankful to all her teachers who encouraged her.

Jurnee is graduating from Hightower High School and will go to Lone Star College to major in Kinesiology. She chose that major because she loves sports. She's most thankful for people who have helped her along the way.

Leslie is graduating from Furr High School and will attend the Lamar Institute of Technology to become certified as an EMT. She's always been interested in all things medical. She's thankful for everyone who's helped her and for the life skills she's learned along the way.

Maribel is graduating from Sharpstown High School. She'll go to U of H and major in occupational therpay. She's thankful for the support of those who've helped her prepare for college.

Michelle is graduating from Conroe High School. She plans to start out at Lone Star College, then transfer to a 4-year university and major in premed. She loves the medical field. She's most thankful for her caseworker who has helped her along the way.

Reyna graduates from Lamar High School and will attend U of H in the fall to study Civil Engineering. She's proud of herself for completing driver's education - and she's learned that her circumstands don't have to define her. She's excited about her future.

Sydnei is graduating from Klein Oak High School and plans to attend Lone Star College. She'll study Health Care Administration. She's thankful for her caseworkers & for her foster mom who taught her all the life skills she now knows.

Albert is graduating from Westbury High School. He'll study Graphic Design at HCC-Central. Drawing & creating are his passions. He said that while in foster care, his caseworker has been the most beneficial person to him. She helped him get his ID so he can get a job this summer.

Alexander is graduating from Thompson High School and will go to Lone Star College to earn a certificate in welding. He's thankful for his foster parents who provided a stable environment for him, which allowed him to focus on his career goals. He's also thankful to his school counselor. Anthony starts at San Jacinto College this fall. After completing his basics, he'll transfer to a four-year university to major in social work and psychology. He is proud of how far he's come and owes it to his grandmother who has shown him support.

Daniel graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and will attend Prairie View A&M this fall. He'll major in accounting. He's thankful to his foster parent, the HAY center and his caseworker. They all encouraged him to finish High School. He's good at math!

Darius is graduating from Hightower High School. In school, he discovered his love for building things. So he's going to Blinn to major in Civil Engineering. He also enjoyed playing football. He's had a job since 2018 and has obtained his driver's license. He's most thankful for those who helped him get this far.

Isaiah is graduating from Heights High School. Although he's sad about his senior activies being canceled, he has big plans. He's going to boot camp for the National Guard. So during quarantine, he's spent most of his time training & exercising indoors. Isaiah states that he wants to go to college later, but right now "this country needs people who are willing to serve and protect".

Jameion: Despite moving away from his foster home mid-yeaer, he stayed on track and graduated from George Ranch High School. He's excited about getting his diploma & starting the next phase of his life. He'll go to community college for welding.

Jarvis is graduating from Hightower High School and will attend Texas State Technical College in Waco. He's majoring in Cyber Security because he loves technology. He's held a job since 2018, gotten his driver's license and even bought a car! He ran track and played football in school. He's thankful for those who've helped him get this far.

