

Executive Summary

You Can Begin Again/You Can Begin Again Too: Guided Transition to Adulthood

You Can Begin Again, Inc, a nonprofit organization with 501 (c) (3) status, undertakes the role of change agent and advocate for three categories of at risk young women, namely:

- Young women, 18-25, who already at risk of falling through the cracks of society's safety nets because they do not fit stereotypical images of disadvantage or dysfunction and thus, do not qualify for governmental assistance.
- Young women who are "aging out," or have been emancipated from the foster care system but lack skills for transition to adulthood.
- Young women who are chronically or sporadically homeless and need direction, training, and the support of seasoned advocates.

We have proudly expanded the vision in March 2011 and added "You Can Begin Again Too" which will address a fourth component of at risk young women:

- Young women who are mothers and have been emancipated from the foster care system but lack a family, family support, job skills and education to support their children and themselves. They truly need a hand up, not a hand out.

This vulnerable population has been affected more than most by the current, staggering economic crisis that now grips the American Way of Life in its financial tentacles. This multilayered collapse has produced a "lack syndrome," that translates into the domino effect. Lacking adequate educational preparation, they have no discernible job readiness skills. Lacking marketable skills, these youth cannot find work that pays a living wage. As a result, they lack affordable housing, health care, and are relegated to marginal existence and simply become invisible until they become data in a government report.

You Can Begin Again/You Can Begin Again Two: Guided Transition to Adulthood will offer comprehensive case management services that equip young women, 18-25, with the resources and skills needed to successfully navigate the billows and breakers of at risk lives to the safe shores of productive and peaceful adulthood. This will be accomplished through individual and group programs tailored to the needs of each participant.

The Project will sustain itself through establishing and maintaining partnerships with a cadre of agencies, organizations, philanthropies and communities that share the mission of You Can Begin Again/ You Can Begin Again Too, Inc.