



Orlando Sentinel examines foster care in Florida

The Orlando Sentinel's recent two-day series on foster care in Florida was both sobering and inspiring.

The [first-day story](#) looked at the case of the late Regis Little, a young man "who left years of foster care only to wind up, a month shy of his 19th birthday, stabbed to death in an Orlando parking lot."



The [second-day story](#) focused on the success of Kamesha Grant. According to the Sentinel, "When local child-welfare advocates want an example of how things can go right [in the foster care system], Grant often becomes Exhibit A. She is bright, personable and exceedingly polite..."

The first story was an outcome of the Regis Little Task Force. The task force was created by the City of Life Foundation at the invitation of [Family Services of Metro Orlando](#) and the [Florida Department of Children and Families](#). The task force was chaired by City of Life board member Gerry Glynn. Following the murder of Regis Little, the task force spent months evaluating the time Regis spent in foster care.

Among the task force's [recommendations](#):

- Foster kids with intellectual disabilities, severe behavioral problems and mental-health issues need a "champion" who works within the system to help them transition out of the state's custody.
- All foster children need a reliable and permanent "adult connection" to contact for advice and help when they're on their own. Some agencies are already at work on this, trying to track down relatives through a new "Family Finders" program.
- A centralized electronic file should be kept on each foster child so records can be shared when kids are moved, change schools or enter different programs. Foster parents should be able to add medical updates.

City of Life featured in Orlando Magic Magazine

The City of Life Foundation recently was featured in the [April issue of Orlando Magic Magazine](#), thanks to board member Lucas Boyce, an executive with the Magic.

Please visit City of Life's Web site

The [City of Life Foundation](#) was founded in 2002 for the purpose of offering former foster youth tools, opportunities and a chance to pursue their dreams. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation made up of a volunteer board and one full-time employee interested in making a positive difference in the lives of young people, especially foster youth, age 16 and older as they make transition to adulthood.

The Foundation works with existing community resources to build self-sustaining programs that provides jobs and structure for former foster youth.

For more information about City of Life's efforts to create opportunities for foster youth, please visit our Web site at www.cityoflifeorlando.org

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