



# HIGH SCHOOL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

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# AUSTIN ANGELS

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Austin Angels started in Austin, Texas in 2010. In 2016, we began to expand across the country and are currently serving children, youth, and families in 22 chapters across 16 states. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to grow up to become the person they were always intended to be, and every chapter plays a role in making that vision a reality.



## WHY WE DO IT

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Children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to neglect, abandonment, or because they are the victim of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Because of this trauma, they often experience PTSD at a rate more than twice that of combat veterans ([reference](#)). When children are removed from the home, they are confused and frightened. They need the temporary protection and nurturing that a foster family can provide.

Young people who have grown up within the foster care system have experienced instability in their lives and often disproportionately suffer from learning disabilities, limited life skills, health issues, and emotional and behavioral struggles that lead to negative developmental outcomes. Youth who age out of foster care without having been adopted or reunified with their families have less financial, emotional, and social support than their peers.

# OUR MISSION

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To walk alongside children, youth, and families in the foster care community by offering consistent support through intentional giving, relationship building, and mentorship.

# OUR CORE VALUES

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COMMUNITY  
EMPOWERMENT  
HOPE



# OUR VISION

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To create sustainable change in the foster care system.

We value building **community** around families who care for children who have been through trauma, abuse, and neglect to show them they are not alone. Our programs utilize a trauma-informed, holistic, wrap-around support service model that strengthens the health of the home.

We value **empowering** the local community to volunteer to make a meaningful and powerful impact on the foster care community. When families and youth are matched with committed volunteers and mentors who show up monthly, parents feel supported and youth gain a greater sense of belonging and self-confidence.

We value the gift of **hope** for every child to find healing and reach their fullest potential. We know the value of love, friendship, and positive role models who will speak truth and life into the children in our programs and the selfless people who care for them.

## our programs

# THE LOVE BOX

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The Love Box program provides families (caregivers, children in foster care, and biological/adopted children) with community and holistic support. This wrap-around support enables caregivers to continue to do the important and meaningful work of being foster parents. Volunteers are matched with a local foster family based on location, compatibility, and scope of need. Volunteers deliver monthly personal care packages (Love Box) based on current needs & spend time building relationships by playing games, sharing meals & connecting. The program is designed to increase placement stability, normalcy, resilience & build an infrastructure of support around the home.

# DARE TO DREAM

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The Dare to Dream program focuses on mentoring youth (ages 11-22) both in care and aged out. The heart of the Dare to Dream program is to walk alongside youth as they navigate through life's challenges. The youth in our Dare to Dream program need the wisdom, advice, encouragement, and community that mentors can provide. Mentors meet practical and emotional needs as well as provide guidance through developmental milestones. The goal is for youth to be engaged and to feel supported and equipped to navigate life. Mentors serve as positive role models & meet with their youth 2x a month to build relationships & empower them to accomplish goals. The developmental milestone model equips youth to succeed post-care & be prepared for adulthood while putting an emphasis on long-term connections to safe positive role models.



# THE STATE OF FOSTER CARE AND WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT

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**50%**

of foster homes  
close within the  
first year.



Our programs increase the support and stability of fostering caregivers, decreasing the number of children moving from home to home.

**3%**

of former foster  
youth will  
graduate from  
college.



We encourage our youth to "Dare to Dream" about all that they could become while providing the educational tools and mentoring they need to reach their goals.

**50%**

of former foster  
youth will be  
employed at age 24.



We provide opportunities for youth in foster care to learn tools and gain skills that will help prepare them for a successful future.

# HOW *you* CAN HELP!

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Our unique High School Ambassador Program is a way for students to get involved in impacting the lives of children, youth, and families. Creating awareness about the foster care system and the hope of making change amongst peers at school is impactful for our future. The Ambassador program is set up to allow high school students an opportunity to dive deeper into the work we do at Austin Angels in a way that also supports the student's educational and professional goals. The program is fluid - meaning, if a student has specific goals for the program, we are able to work with each student to see how we can accommodate those needs. The ambassador will be offered educational seminars, exposure to the Austin Angels programming and how it's changing foster care, guidance to coordinate and execute a fundraiser or supply drive, verified volunteer hours, and a letter of recommendation upon successful completion of the program.



# AMBASSADOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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- Learn about Austin Angels and the foster care system via zoom and recordings
- Complete 1 fundraiser or supply drive
- Conduct 2 info sessions with friends and other students, sharing about foster care and Austin Angels' programs (video + outline provided)
- Submit a minimum of 12 photos of activities and fundraiser
- Follow and engage with Austin/National Angels IG and Facebook accounts

# AMBASSADOR PERKS

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- Austin Angels branded swag (backpack, stickers to share, t-shirt, pens)
- Verified volunteer hours
- Access to personal development and foster care awareness training sessions (via zoom) with the Austin Angels team
- Invitation to attend National Angels quarterly online “C.H.A.T.S (Connection, Healing, Advocacy, Teaching, Support) Sessions”. C.H.A.T.S are an opportunity to be informed in the child welfare space and are a resource to learn more about child welfare, volunteering, trauma, etc., and how to make a difference in the foster care community.
- Knowledge and insight into the foster care system and how Austin Angels programs are changing the way children, youth, and families experience foster care
- Letter of recommendation for furthering education or employment (upon successful completion of program)



## Ambassador Program Application

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Name

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Address

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City/State/Zip

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Email Address

Phone

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School Name

Grade

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Preferred Semester/Quarter for Ambassador Program

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What are the start and end dates of the preferred quarter/semester?

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How did you hear about Austin/National Angels?

T-Shirt Size

Please include a cover letter telling us about yourself, and stating why you want to be a part of the High School Ambassador program for Austin Angels.

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If selected, will you be able to secure an advisor on your campus for this program?

PLEASE RETURN TO  
RACHEL@AUSTINANGELS.COM