



## PEER ADVOCACY

***Helping youth in foster care achieve better education, employment, and permanency outcomes by giving youth the tools needed to take an active role in decision-making.***

**The Oasis Center** is a youth-serving agency that works to ensure safety, belonging, empowerment and leadership to youth in Nashville. **The Peer Advocate** is an Oasis Center staff that orients foster youth ages 15-17 to the Tennessee Child Welfare system and helps youth become active members of their Child and Family Team. **Eligible** youth are those who are new to foster care and have Level 1 or 2 placement.

### **Peer Advocacy Goals**

- Help youth speak and advocate for *themselves*.
- Give youth information about the system, their rights, the role of child welfare professionals, and the services that are available to them.
- Help youth voice their concerns and opinions especially in situations where decisions are being made and to evaluate with them afterwards (i.e. CFTM's, court hearings, FCRB's).
- Bridge relationships between the youth and their community by facilitating their participation in volunteering, sports and recreation, and leadership activities.



**The Tennessee Youth Advisory Council** is a group of current and former foster youth ages 14-24 who work to improve the foster care system and bring about a better experience for youth in foster care. TYAC members believe that no decisions should be made about youth without their input. They provide training to the courts, foster parents and foster youth and give feedback about laws and policies that effect young people in foster care. Experienced Youth Making Changes.

### **For more information about Peer Advocacy contact:**

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### **For more information about TYAC ad the Oasis Center visit:**

[www.tnfosteryouth.org](http://www.tnfosteryouth.org) [www.oasiscenter.org](http://www.oasiscenter.org)