



***Support Our Graduates in Foster Care by Sending
“Cards of Encouragement “ for the 23rd Celebration of Excellence***

The 23rd Celebration of Excellence will be held June 20, 2015, at 12:00 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, GA. ICM is asking everyone to provide a **Greeting Card of Encouragement** as support to Georgia's 300 youth in foster care who are graduating from high school, college, technical school or receiving a GED this year. We are asking that you help us to show our youth that they have a community that cares for them and wants only good for them by expressing in writing words of wisdom that may have been passed down to you; words of encouragement that will bring a smile to a youth's face; or words of comfort and confidence for youth who are venturing out on their own.

Helping graduating youth in foster care prepare for life is an action that provides many rewards. Our words of caring can help them successfully transition to adulthood. We recognize the obstacles that these youth face as young adults. Currently,

- 1) only 50% of youth in foster care will graduate from high school;
- 2) 30% of youth who age out of foster care will be homeless within a year of graduating from high school; and
- 3) only one out of every 10 youth in foster care will enroll in college.

From now through June 15, 2015, submit your Cards of Encouragement in support of youth who have overcome significant obstacles to achieve this momentous occasion of graduation. Invite your family, friends and the children and youth in your faith community or organization to create a special card (with artwork). Our goal is to receive at least 300 cards so that every student will have a personalized note.

Engage the children and youth at your faith community in this effort! Let them decorate cards and provide words of encouragement, as well.

We will be accepting *Greeting Cards of Encouragement* from May 5, 2015, through June 15, 2015. If you do not bring your cards on May 5th to ICM's "Coming Together for All Children," you can mail them to Interfaith Children's Movement, P. O. Box 54149, Atlanta, GA 30308. Please contact us at 770-498-2141 or info@interfaithchildrensmovement.org for more information.

NOTICE: **The gift card campaign has been assumed by the Department of Human Services. Therefore, ICM is no longer requesting gift cards.**