Tiffany,

Tomorrow night when you ring in the New Year with a round of Auld Lang Syne will you remember old friends? It's pretty tough for kids who grew up in foster care and bounced from home to home. Most cannot name all the different schools they attended or the fleeting friendships they formed. Every year FCF is working to change that reality. We don’t make New Year's resolutions we can’t stick to, we make promises to keep.

We help pass laws to give former foster youth better access to their records. We provide the forms and guidance to help young people get those records - so they can re-construct their history, their lives and their friendships. We recruit, train and support lawyers whose work directly on behalf of children and we provide legal support and encouragement for young people to become adopted as adults. We stay on the front line to make sure caseworkers have the best policies and practices in place to promote permanency. Will you be there on the front line with us in 2011?

Make a New Year’s resolution that COUNTS!

RESOLVE TO STAND WITH US!

What We’re Watching in 2011

Domestic minor sex trafficking:
Will Florida criminalize victims or will FCF and other child advocates succeed in pushing the state to accept the challenge of serving them as child - victims?

Independent Living Re-Design:
Will we better serve former foster youth whom we failed to find a permanent family, or create barriers in the name of holding youth accountable?

Child Welfare Oversight & Accountability:
Will budget cuts and “streamlining” further reduce DCF's ability to monitor and hold privatized agencies accountable for the services they are supposed to provide to children and families?

Child & Youth Participation in Policymaking:
Every year brings new opportunities and challenges, especially for kids in foster care. 2011 will be no different, but as always Florida's Children First remains a vigilant watchdog protecting the rights of youth. We thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,

Christina & Robin

Christina L. Spudeas, Esq.
Executive Director
christina.spudeas@floridaschildrenfirst.org

Robin L. Rosenberg, Esq.
Deputy Director
robin.rosenberg@floridaschildrenfirst.org

Florida's Children First is a 4-star charity rated by Charity Navigator, the country's premier independent charity evaluator.