

# Foster Care in Michigan



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# Early Childhood

## Background

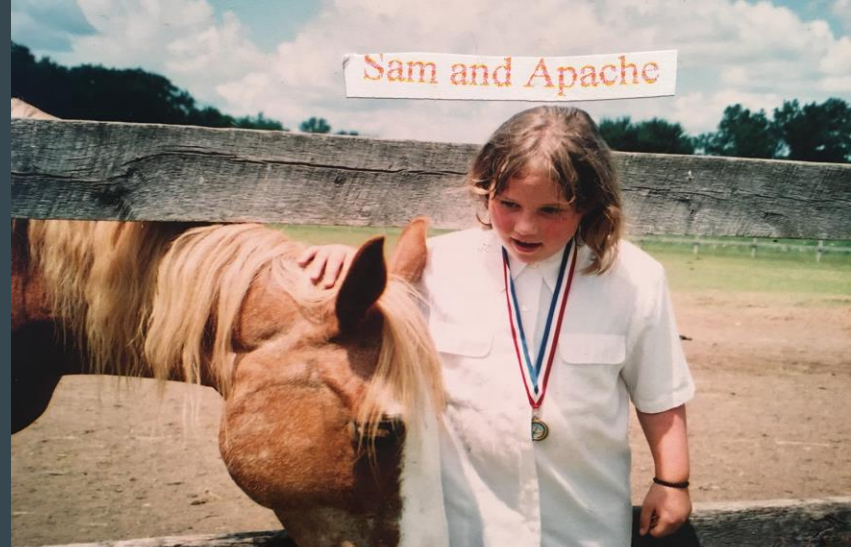
Childhood before foster care

## Challenges

- Addiction
  - School absence
  - Lack of basic needs/resources
  - People in and out of the home
  - Taking care of younger sister
- Removed at the age of 11

## Positive Resources

- Teachers
- Role models
- Friends



# Life in the Foster System

## Challenges

- Grief, loss, and trauma
- Mental health
- Fear of the unknown
- Catching up on school
- *Identity* crisis

## Positive Resources

- Mentors
- Staying in touch with *family*
- Transparent social worker



# Becoming a Young Adult

## Challenges

- Applying for college as first generation without support
- Health care
- “When I turned 18 I lost my insurance through the state. I didn’t know how to apply and I was terrified. To be honest, I didn’t even know that I lost it until I went to the doctors. Thankfully FAME funded my insurance for the duration of my college career. I went months without health coverage and it gave me so much anxiety that it distracted me from my education.”
- School breaks
- Mental health
- Affording classes

## Positive Resources

- fostering connections act
- Spartan advantage
- Fame
- ETV



# My recommendations

## Prevention

Fund after school programs

- Provide more mentor opportunities

## Support

- medicaid

- scholarships

- foster friendly legislation