

San Francisco Foster Youth Fund

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2026



2026 Mighty Fine Wines - Wine Tasting & Auction

FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING of fine wine, great food, and community! The **San Francisco Foster Youth Fund** is thrilled to announce the return of our annual charity event on **Thursday, October 29, 2026**, from **5:30-8:30pm** at **888 Marin Street, San Francisco CA 94124**. The venue is conveniently located across from The Midway.

We're bringing together some of the Bay Area's top wineries, generous supporters, and friends of the Foster Youth Fund for a fun-filled evening **featuring exceptional wines, delicious bites, and an incredible auction** benefiting the fund.

SIP, SAVOR & SUPPORT! Your ticket, \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door, includes an evening of wine tasting, great food, and plenty of opportunities to mingle with fellow supporters, all while helping make a difference in the lives of foster youth. And this year's auction is better than ever!

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: Catered suite tickets to a Golden State Warriors game at Chase Center, tickets to local events and entertainment, tickets to the San Francisco Symphony, stays in San Francisco, Napa and Bodega Bay, restaurant gift certificates, spa experiences, wine tastings, and much more from generous local businesses and supporters.

The **online auction opens October 15, 2026**, and bidding will remain open throughout the event, closing for everyone at **8:00 p.m. PDT on October 29**. You do not need to be present to win. We can't wait to raise a glass with you at Mighty Fine Wines 2026!

Event Tickets

To purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/MightyFineWines2026> or scan the QR codes:



Auction



Building a Brighter Future: One Step at a Time

AT JUST 12 YEARS OLD, Yuki H. was placed in foster care, the only one of her siblings to do so. Like many youth in care, she did not know what her future would bring. But despite all of the challenges she faced, she continued to believe that education could change her life.

As a young single mother living in San Francisco, she was juggling motherhood with school. Knowing she wanted a better life for herself and her family, she decided to enroll at City College of San Francisco with encouragement from her social worker. Thanks to support from the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund, she did not have to worry about how to pay for school and could focus on succeeding in one class, one semester, and one milestone at a time.

Her persistence paid off. She received three associate degrees from City College in Computer Science, Math and Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences before transferring to San Francisco State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Economics this past May. Currently, she is pursuing a career in project management while working to support her family.

She learned that she could create her own community from the people who showed up for her. One such person was her protective services worker who became such a vital part of her life

that she was invited to, and attended, Yuki's daughter's first birthday. Now her daughter is four...and a constant reminder of her reason for fighting.

Now, she wants to pay it forward by helping to secure donations for foster youth and motivate others to persevere. Her experience illustrates how every act of support given to a young person, whether it's a scholarship, a trusted mentor, or someone who has faith in them, can contribute to opportunities for their future. The San Francisco Foster Youth Fund aims to help foster youth who have no conventional family support system achieve a college education, stability, and a better life.

This year at Mighty Fine Wines, hear Yuki tell her story in her own words. As one of our speakers, she'll share her journey from foster care to college graduate, those who helped her get there, and how your support is helping other foster children pave their own path to success.



The Cheryl Baker Culinary Grant



IN RECOGNITION OF the passing of Cheryl Baker, a longtime board member and Secretary of the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund, we honor her extraordinary dedication to the children, youth, and families of the City and County of San Francisco.

Cheryl devoted her professional life to public service through the San Francisco Human Services Agency. She began her career as an Eligibility Worker and later served as a Child Protective Services Social Worker and Supervisor. Throughout her career, Cheryl worked tirelessly to support, protect, and advocate for children and families, particularly those facing some of life's most difficult circumstances.

Her commitment to young people extended far beyond her professional career. As a dedicated member of the Board of the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund, where she also served as Secretary, Cheryl continued to advocate for youth in foster care and for opportunities that would enrich their lives

and create meaningful experiences.

In honor of Cheryl's legacy of service, compassion, and commitment to young people, the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund is proud to name its culinary grant the Cheryl Baker Culinary Grant.

The Cheryl Baker Culinary Grant focuses on strengthening relationships and creating meaningful experiences through food. Through the grant, a youth's social worker may request funding to provide a young person with the opportunity to enjoy a celebratory meal, share a special dining experience, or explore diverse global cuisines they might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

Through every meal shared, milestone celebrated, and new experience discovered, the Cheryl Baker Culinary Grant will carry forward Cheryl's enduring commitment to ensuring that youth in foster care feel supported, valued, and celebrated.



THIS YEAR, the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund proudly celebrates 40 years of serving children and youth in foster care. Established in 1986 as the Workers' Children Fund by Child Welfare Workers of the San Francisco Department of Human Services, now known as the San Francisco Human Services Agency, the fund was created to address a pressing need. Over the past four decades, the fund has provided scholarships and grants that have opened doors for countless foster youth. Support has included college scholarships; computers/technology; programs to build self-esteem through music, athletics, and martial arts; summer camps; as well as career-related and independent living expenses.

One of the greatest strengths of the fund is that it is entirely volunteer driven. Every aspect of the organization, including fundraising, decision making, and the disbursement of grants, is carried out by a dedicated volunteer board of directors. For 40 years, it has been our privilege to help children and youth overcome barriers created by circumstances beyond their control.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our loyal donors and supporters. Your generosity and unwavering commitment have made these four decades of service to our foster youth possible. Many foster youth have experienced opportunities that may otherwise have been out of reach, creating brighter futures and lasting hope for generations to come!

Scholarship Corner

EVERY FALL, we witness our youth in care defying the odds and shattering statistics by walking into college classrooms, moving into dorms, and building new friendships, as they start the next chapter of their lives.

The scholarship support provided by the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund covers the costs of pursuing higher education: tuition, textbooks, rent, and groceries, but what it really funds is something bigger. It funds the chance to focus on learning instead of surviving. It funds stability. It funds a future. Each youth's success is a testament to what's possible when a community decides that a young person's potential is worth investing in.

Your donations to the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund help youth in care earn their degrees. With that foundation, they are more likely to find steady work, give back to their communities, and rewrite a story that too often repeats itself across generations.

So when you give to the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund, know that you're doing more than covering the cost of a textbook or tuition; you are telling a young person that someone believes in them.

We are honored to celebrate 3 recipients graduating with the Class of 2026.

- ♦ Yuki H. (BA in Economics), San Francisco State University
- ♦ Jamehsay B. (BA in Africana Studies, Minors in Criminal Justice Studies and Sociology), San Francisco State University
- ♦ Victoria W. (BA in Learning & Organizational Change), Northwestern University

Your generous donations continue to support students at: CSU Long Beach, City College of San Francisco, Diablo Valley College, Morgan State University, Oxnard College, Sacramento State, San Diego State University, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Shasta Community College, Sierra College, Southern New Hampshire University, University College Dublin, UC Berkeley, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz

Focus & Determination: Ismael's Story

ISMAEL R.M. IS NOW 21 years old, and we couldn't be prouder of how far he's come. While in foster care, Ismael applied for a sports scholarship through our San Francisco Foster Youth Fund, which gave him the opportunity to return to Taekwondo, a sport he'd loved as a child and was determined to come back to, stronger than before.

Taekwondo quickly became more than a sport for Ismael; it became a passion. He showed up to every class with enthusiasm, discipline, and focus. His dedication didn't go unnoticed. His Sensei took him under his wing and encouraged him to compete, first in New York and later in San Jose. Across the two tournaments, Ismael earned four medals, and he's already training for his next competition.

For Ismael, Taekwondo is about more than winning; it's about the challenge and the adventure. His story is a powerful reminder that when foster youth are given the chance to pursue their passions, it can open entirely new doors and change the course of their lives for the better.

Thank you, Ismael, for letting us share your story, and for inspiring all of us to keep chasing our own dreams.



Scholarship Highlight

NIKEYDA F., A 4-YEAR RECIPIENT of our Eric Hoberg Scholarship, obtained her degree in Education & Social Transformation from UCLA and spent the following year in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, participating in Teach For America. She also supported her younger brother in completing basic training in the United States Army. After working and saving, she took him on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. He remains active in the Army and she continues to teach 3rd grade in Hawaii.

Sustain Our Impact

WE DEPEND ON your generosity to continue funding these crucial dreams & experiences. Please consider becoming a monthly donor. We're excited to partner with Zeffy, a leading nonprofit platform that covers all processing fees, so your support goes 100% to the youth.

The SFFYF Board and the youth we support are deeply grateful for your commitment. Please scan the QR code below to make a one time or monthly donation to support our cause.



Uplift Through Community Thrift!

WE CONTINUE TO extend our heartfelt thanks to Community Thrift for their incredible support! In 2025, this wonderful organization generously donated \$3,467.64 to the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund. Located at 623 Valencia Street in San Francisco, Community Thrift gives donors the option to select a charity to benefit from their contributions. Next time you clean out your closet or search for great finds, please consider selecting the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund. Learn more at

<https://www.communitythriftsf.org/>

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Visit Our Website

WANT TO KNOW about the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund? Visit us at our website, www.sffosteryouthfund.org for more photos, stories and information. It also offers a secure and convenient way you can donate online anytime.



San Francisco Foster Youth Fund

P.O. Box 460086

San Francisco, CA 94146-0086

(PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN)

I Support San Francisco Foster Youth!

- ☐ Yes, I will attend Mighty Fine Wines on October 29, 2026 - scan the QR code to buy tickets
- ☐ Yes, I will participate in the online auction - scan the QR code to access the auction site
- ☐ No, I am unable to participate, but will help with a donation of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Event Tickets



Auction



Please mail your check and this form to:

San Francisco Foster Youth Fund
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San Francisco, CA 94146-0086