writing for green

Examples of Stories/Anecdotes



As you read the following stories, consider the following:

- What makes the following stories effective, emotive, or moving?
- What makes you want to read more?
- Alternatively, what are the deficiencies?
- What are some of the common elements that all good stories share?

Note: The stories below do not include background on the programs that are mentioned. For the ones taken from web pages, that background is on the website. In the case of a grant narrative, the background would be part of the narrative, so that the context for each story is clear.

Success stories from Florida Foster Care Review (copied on Feb. 16, 2023 from Florida Foster Care Review's "success stories" webpage, https://www.fostercarereview.org/our-work/success-stories/ – see the webpage for more):

1 Florida Foster Care Review (FFCR) Connects Youth with Needed Services

Sixteen year-old Alana was placed in foster care when her caregiver declared that she was ungovernable and refused to continue looking after her while her mother was hospitalized. Alana's mother passed away soon after. During a review hearing, the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) learned that Alana had been using drugs. The panel members asked Alana what support she would need to get on a more productive life course. They recommended referral to a substance abuse treatment program and connected her to a volunteer opportunity. Alana pursued both.

Now 17, Alana is a different person. She is doing well in school and has thanked the CRP for connecting her to a treatment program that saved her life and helped her address her traumatic past. She told the CRP panel members that volunteering helped her realize that she wanted to be an occupational therapist. Alana has started looking into career programs and will continue to live with her foster family after turning 18. With the care and guidance of both the CRP volunteers and the supportive adults in her life, Alana is set up for success.

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3 Stories of impact from Catalyst Miami*

Vanessa created a brighter future for herself and her daughter.

When Vanessa came to Catalyst Miami, she was looking for help finding health insurance for herself and her daughter. While working with her Prosperity Campaign coach, Vanessa realized Catalyst could also help her find other resources they needed.

Aside from being uninsured, they were facing eviction and other financial challenges. Vanessa's coach helped her connect with housing agencies, enroll in SNAP and Medicaid, and find employment. She now works full-time at a law firm and has achieved her goal of financial independence.

"I felt safe. I actually had someone who me and my daughter could count on that was willing to help us, but most of all, show us her human heart and compassion." In Vanessa's words, what she found at Catalyst Miami was not just an employee, but someone who instantly listened and made her feel cared about.

Through the support of her coach, the programs available to her, and above all, her own power, Vanessa transformed her life for herself and the most important person in it: her daughter.

(copied on Feb. 16, 2023 from Catalyst Miami's "stories of impact" webpage, https://stories.catalystmiami.org/... see the webpage for more)

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