Student Profiles

Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP

Ana

Eighteen year old Ana graduated from Emporia High School in May 2014 with a 3.89 GPA. She has been in the foster care system for the past six years. During her middle school years, while participating in an afterschool program that was offered, Ana was connected to Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU). Ana’s birth parents had made many bad choices that subsequently, led to the termination of their parental rights for her and her younger sister. At this critical time of her life, she needed to belong and to be cared for, unconditionally.

From her middle school years throughout high school, KKGU provided a variety of support activities that assisted Ana in raising her grades and dealing with her challenges. College visits to Kansas City Art Institute, Emporia State University, and the University of Kansas were some of the specific trips that helped Ana determine her postsecondary educational goals. Visits to the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Emporia Arts Council, where she currently is a part-time employee, and the Kauffman Museum provided academic enrichment.

Ana participated in community service projects at the Sterling House and the Emporia Humane Society. Homework assistance and mentoring services were also offered to Ana during the school year.

In August 2014, Ana began classes at Emporia State University. Not surprising for this creative young lady, her major is art therapy for young adults. Ana hopes to transfer to the University of Kansas, acquire her degree, and begin working on a masters.

The OSP staff listed below were shaped by TRIO as student participants:

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