

February 15, 2008

Dear Student,

Congratulations! You have been nominated for United Friends of the Children's College Readiness Program. United Friends of the Children (UFC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping foster children become successful, independent adults.

The College Readiness Program (CRP) is a college preparatory program that offers educational support to foster youth starting in 7th grade. **We are currently recruiting 6th graders (and a limited number of 7th and 8th graders)** like you who think that one day they may want to attend college. We are looking for motivated students who are interested in learning more about college. The fact that you have received this application package shows that someone believes in your ability to excel!

Now that you have been nominated, your next step is to fill out an application. If selected, you will be working with United Friends of the Children through high school graduation. CRP offers a long-term approach to helping you set and achieve educational goals. Throughout middle and high school, College Readiness Program sessions will help promote your academic success. The program also includes fun social activities that will introduce you to other young people wanting to achieve. Program components include:

- Development of an individualized academic plan based on personal goals
- Quarterly one-on-one sessions with a college counselor
- Academic workshops and college tours
- Tutoring
- Leadership and service opportunities
- Social activities and prizes for accomplishing goals
- Summer enrichment programs (i.e., summer camps, sports camps, art classes, etc.)
- Career planning, job shadowing, and internships

The College Readiness Program will offer you an overview of the college application process, providing guidance from studying for SATs to paying for college, with the end goal of preparing you to attend and to graduate from college.

So what's required of you? Please fill out the enclosed application and send it, along with a copy of your school report card (or transcripts from your school office) and completed parent and teacher forms, to United Friends of the Children postmarked by **Wednesday, April 16, 2008**. Please send all parts of your application together—incomplete applications will not be reviewed. An Application Completion Checklist has been included to help you keep track. Once admitted, you can attend regular meetings with a UFC College Counselor and participate in College Readiness Program activities.

Please contact us with any questions.

Warm regards,

Linda S. Ramos
Education Program Manager
213.580.1847

Megan Rogers
College Counselor
213.580.1837



UNITED FRIENDS of the CHILDREN
Preparing Foster Youth for a Future That Works

UFC College Readiness Program Student Application

Your application should be postmarked by **Wednesday, April 16, 2008**, and should include all items on the Application Completion Checklist.

Application Completion Checklist

- Personal and School Information
 - Short Answers
 - Essay
 - Parent/Guardian Form
 - Teacher Recommendation Form (in a signed, sealed envelope)
Please note: It is an important piece to help us understand your abilities in the classroom. If you are not comfortable asking your teacher to complete the form, you may send a recommendation from another adult (i.e., CASA, social worker).
 - Most Recent School Transcript or Final Report Card
-

Please mail the completed application to:

College Readiness Program
United Friends of the Children
1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1955
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Application Process & Program Expectations

Once your application has been submitted in full, you may be contacted to schedule an in-person interview. All interviews will take place at the UFC office located in the City of Hope building at 1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1955 (Bixel is the cross street). Students admitted to the 2008-2009 College Readiness Program (CRP) class will be notified in early July. Admitted students are expected to attend a College Readiness orientation on Saturday, July 19, 2008.

Regular sessions with UFC's College Counselor will be scheduled quarterly (minimum 4 times per school year). The College Counselor will go to locations convenient to the students, including students' homes or schools. Attendance at these one-on-one meetings is the foundation of the College Readiness Program, therefore students are expected to attend.

UFC's College Readiness Program requires participation in activities and assignments outside quarterly sessions for students to gain the most out of the program, including occasional workshops and conferences at various locations throughout Los Angeles County. Students who are not able to attend workshops can do related assignments to make up missed sessions.

Please contact Megan at 213.580.1837 or Falon at 213.580.1857 with any questions.

Thank you for your interest in UFC's College Readiness Program!



UFC College Readiness Program Student Application

Please complete all parts of the application and return by **Wednesday, April 16, 2008**, to: College Readiness Program, United Friends of the Children, 1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1955, Los Angeles, CA 90017. *Please mail all items together.*

Personal Information

Student name _____
First Middle Last

Birth date _____ Gender (circle one) Female Male

Home address _____
Number and street City State Zip

Phone number _____ Alternate number _____

E-mail address _____ Do you have regular access to e-mail? Yes No

Parent/Guardian (with whom you live) _____
Name Relationship/Placement type

Parent/Guardian (with whom you live) phone number _____

Social worker's name _____ Phone number _____

Social worker's region (if known) _____ DCFS case number (if known) _____

School Information

School _____ (Current grade) _____

School address _____
Number and street City State Zip

School you plan to attend in Fall 2008 _____



Short Answers

Please write legibly or type responses.

1. When you hear the word “college” what comes to mind?

2. How do you feel about school? Please explain why.

3. What are your long-term educational (college, graduate school) and career (job-related) goals?

4. One part of the College Readiness Program includes encouraging students to participate in enrichment activities (summer camp, art class, musical instrument lessons, etc.) during the summer. What type of summer activity interests you? Please list as many as you like.

6. What talent or skill are you proud of?

Essay (1– 1 ½ pages)

Please answer one of the following questions on a separate page in no more than 1 ½ pages written.

- a) Describe a major challenge you have faced in your life and how you overcame it.
- b) If you could meet anyone from the past or present, who would it be and why?
- c) Please provide three reasons why you think a college education is or is not important and explain.

Signature

The information presented in my application is accurate, honestly presented, and has been written solely by me.

Student signature

Date

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UFC College Readiness Program Student Application

Parent/Guardian Form

To the student: Please give this form to your parent/guardian *with whom you live* to complete.

To the parent or guardian: Please fill out this form and have your student return it with the completed application.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations! The child in your care has been nominated for United Friends of the Children's College Readiness Program. United Friends of the Children (UFC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bettering the lives of foster children and to supporting former foster youth in their journey to become successful, independent adults. UFC is committed to ensuring that foster youth have access to quality education and the opportunity to pursue their academic goals.

Participation in the College Readiness Program (CRP) will expose the child in your care to enriching educational and social opportunities, which can increase his or her chances for college acceptance and scholarships. The program begins as early as the 7th grade and will provide academic support through high school graduation.

Program components include:

- Development of an individualized academic plan based on personal goals
- Quarterly one-on-one sessions with college counselor
- Academic workshops and college tours
- Leadership and service opportunities
- Social activities and incentives for accomplishing goals
- Summer enrichment programs (i.e., summer camps, sports camps, art classes, etc.)
- Career planning, job shadowing, and internships

CRP will offer the child in your care an overview of the college application process, providing guidance from studying for SATs to paying for college, with the end objective of preparing him or her to attend and graduate from a four-year college or university.

We are accepting current 6-8 grade students (who will be starting grade 7-9 in Fall 2008) who have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (C or better). We are looking for motivated students who can benefit from a boost, not just students who have straight A's. Students will be notified of admittance in July.

Thank you for your participation. Please contact Megan at 213.580.1837 or Falon at 213.580.1857 with any questions.



9. How involved is your student's social worker in his/her academic progress?

- Not at all involved
- A little involved
- Somewhat involved
- Very involved

10. What do you believe is the best option for your student after high school graduation?

- Getting a full time job/not pursuing higher education
- Attending a vocational/trade school program
- Attending a community/two-year college
- Attending a community/two-year college, then transferring to a four-year college/university
- Attending a four-year college/university
- Not sure

11. What challenges or barriers might prevent your student from attending a four-year college/university?

12. Is the child in your care a good candidate for the College Readiness Program? Why or why not?

13. Is there anything else you feel we should know regarding the participation of the child in your care in the College Readiness Program? Please explain.

Parents/Guardian signature Printed name Date

Phone number Alternate phone number E-Mail address

UFC College Readiness Program Student Application

Teacher Recommendation Form

This form is strongly encouraged, but not required as part of a complete application.

To the student: Please fill out the first four lines of this form and give to your teacher to complete.
To the teacher: Please complete this form, put it in the enclosed Teacher Recommendation envelope, sign your name across the seal, and return the envelope to the student.

Dear Teacher:

Your student has been nominated for United Friends of the Children's College Readiness Program. United Friends of the Children is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bettering the lives of foster children and to supporting former foster youth in their journey to become successful, independent adults. Participation in the College Readiness Program (CRP) can expose your student to enriching educational and social opportunities to increase his or her chances for college acceptance and scholarships.

The program begins as early as the 7th grade and will provide academic support to your student through high school graduation. CRP will offer your student an overview of the college application process, providing guidance from studying for SATs to paying for college, with the end objective of preparing him or her to attend and graduate from a competitive college or university.

Program components include:

- Development of an individualized academic plan based on personal goals
- Quarterly one-on-one sessions with college counselor
- Academic workshops and college tours
- Leadership and service opportunities
- Social activities and prizes for accomplishing goals
- Summer enrichment programs (i.e., summer camps, sports camps, art classes, etc.)
- Career planning, job shadowing, and internships

We are currently recruiting students in grades 6-8 (who will be starting grades 7-9 in Fall 2008) who have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (C or better). We are looking for motivated students who can benefit from a boost, not just students who have straight A's.

We at United Friends of the Children greatly appreciate your insights on the applicant. Please contact Megan at 213.580.1837 or Falon at 213.580.1857 with any questions.

Student name

First

Middle

Last

I hereby give permission for my teacher, _____, to provide the requested information.

Student signature

Student's printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian printed name

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Thank you for your participation. Please offer specific examples when possible in answering the following questions.

1. How long have you known the applicant? In what context?
2. What course(s) have you taught the applicant and what grade(s) did the applicant receive?
3. In your opinion, what are the student's strengths? In what areas does this student need to improve?
4. UFC's College Readiness Program requires student attendance at quarterly meetings, participation in workshops and college tours, and some independent work. Does this student have the enthusiasm and dependability to fully participate in the program?
5. How much do you think the applicant would benefit from enrollment in this program? What type of summer enrichment program (i.e., academic support, summer camp, sports camp, art classes, etc.) would benefit the student the most?
6. Please discuss the maturity level of this student (in comparison to his or her peers).
7. Have you experienced any disciplinary problems with this student? If so, please explain.



