

BEYOND CAMP™

See The Better In Life

By Tiffany Araya, Program Coordinator, The Felix Organization

The Felix Organization began as a humble dream in 2006 shared by two adoptees: our co-founders, Sheila Jaffe and Darryl McDaniels. After meeting through a mutual friend, they bonded over their similar experiences with discovering later in their adult years that they had been adopted as children. Compelled to give back to this community they suddenly found themselves part of, Sheila and Darryl teamed up to create The Felix Organization.

The first idea was simple: a sleepaway camp for children in the NYC foster care system. Out of this vision, Camp Felix was born. In partnership with the New York Foundling, Camp Felix had its first summer in 2006. Since then, over 1,000 children in the NYC foster care system have been sent to Camp Felix in upstate New York.

With the incredible feedback and success of our premiere program, The Felix Organization knew it could do even more to support foster youth. In 2012, we launched our grant-giving initiative, **Beyond Camp**. When the camp season ends in August, the support that Felix provides does not. **Beyond Camp** grants funding to NYC youth in foster care for extracurricular activities throughout the year. In recent years, **Beyond Camp** distributed funds for dance lessons, gymnastics, college textbooks, sports leagues, photography equipment, tutoring, laptops for school and more.

When our children are at Camp, they have the opportunity to participate in activities that they may not be part of when Camp is over, including Dance, Swim, Sports, and more. **Beyond Camp** gives our most inspired campers and other youth in the foster care system the opportunity to pursue their interests and sharpen their skills during the school year.

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Recently we received a request from a young man, Anthony, for a professional camera to practice his favorite medium of expression: photography. Anthony discovered his passion for photography as a junior counselor at Happy Trails for Kids, "Capturing all those smiling faces....it was one of the best things for me at camp."



For Anthony, being behind the camera "helped [him] see the better in life."

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These opportunities are only made possible through the generosity of our donors and supporters who make it possible to provide the best resources for our campers. Our youth are so proud and excited to receive these opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions!

If you are interested in applying for a Beyond Camp mini-grant, our application can be found below:

[Beyond Camp Application Link](#)

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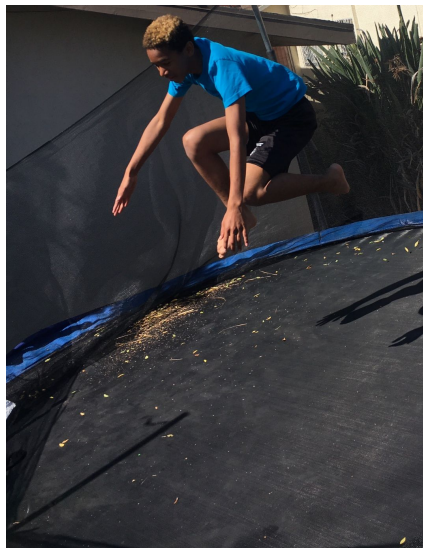
Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders

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"I like to do cartwheels, they keep me calm." Amani, one of our **Beyond Camp** recipients wrote these very words in her application to The Felix Organization in February, 2017. Growing up in foster care, Amani did not have funds to cover gymnastics classes at her nearby gym. Through **Beyond Camp**, The Felix Organization made it possible for Amani to follow this seemingly small, but very significant dream.

The **Beyond Camp** program at The Felix Organization has been providing opportunities like this for children growing up in foster care, just like Amani, for the last five years.

2017 has been an exciting year for **Beyond Camp**, our grant-giving initiative that gives foster youth the opportunity to pursue their interests and sharpen their skills during the school year. This year, Amani and her two siblings, Trayshon and Andrea, are taking gymnastics classes. They have been through many home placements and have now found stability with a family member. Being enrolled in gymnastics has given them a positive way to express themselves and practice focus and self-discipline through this trying time.

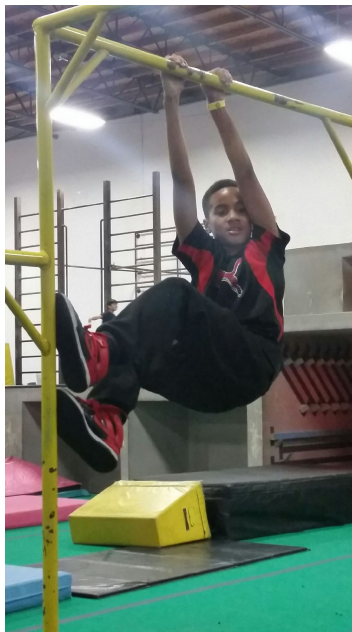


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When our campers are at Camp Felix, they participate in activities that they may not be part of when camp is over, including dance, swimming, art, sports and more. We believe that our children deserve to learn, grow, and enjoy themselves even when camp is not in session. So in 2012, we launched the **Beyond Camp** grant program.

The support Felix provides is not limited to the summer season. Through **Beyond Camp**, Felix grants funding to NYC and LA youth in foster care for extracurricular activities throughout the year. In the past, **Beyond Camp** distributed funds for dance lessons, gymnastics, college textbooks, sports leagues, photography equipment, tutoring, laptops for school and more.

So far this year, we have provided grants for swimming lessons, a softball league, french language classes and a gym membership! One of our 2016 **Beyond Camp** recipients, Zarreon, enjoyed his Freerunning classes so much that he applied to receive a grant for classes again in 2017.



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In his application essay, Zarreon said, "You are making one kid in California very happy."

We are grateful to provide these resources for our children, and our youth are so proud and excited to receive these opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions! **Beyond Camp** is only possible because of the generosity of our donors and supporters. Thank you to everyone who continues to make this program possible.

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