



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL FORMER FOSTER YOUTH SELECTED FOR CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INTERNSHIP**

PLANTATION, FL – Milo Jetkins is uncertain why his mother was unable to adequately care for him - causing him to be placed in custody of the state when he was nine years old. He's also unsure of how many siblings he may have. He is, however, fully aware that the struggles and challenges he faced have prepared him for one of the greatest opportunities of his young life. Jetkins, a Broward youth, is one of sixteen former foster youths from around the country that have been selected to participate in the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Foster Youth Internship Program in Washington, D.C.

Milo, a 21-year-old economics major at Florida Atlantic University, first heard about the summer internship from his former counselor at Kids In Distress, Terry Badeaux. "I knew that this internship would be a fitting opportunity for Milo," said Terry "His experience in foster care coupled with his maturity makes him a knowledgeable participant." Terry has known Milo since he was 9 years old and is inspired by his growth over the years.

Application requirements included submitting two essays, two letters of recommendation and a completed application form. All applicants had to complete at least two years of college coursework in a four-year degree program. Milo is excited about the opportunity to meet and work closely with members of Congress, especially those members that write laws to help children in foster care. "I have always been interested in law and politics," notes Milo. "During this internship I hope to better understand how both worlds can improve the lives of youth in foster care."

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit created by Congress, started the Foster Youth Internship program in 2003 to raise awareness on Capitol Hill about the needs and unique perspectives of young adults in the United States aging out of foster care. The eight week internship that begins on May 21<sup>st</sup> will provide Milo with real world experience in a Congressional office, complete with professional training, and a retreat coordinated by the Congressional Coalition.

Devin Wagman, Milo's former Dependency Case Manager, and friend, is excited that Milo was selected for the internship. "From the moment I met him Milo has been dedicated to learning every facet of the law and voicing his well-rounded and mature opinion," remembers Devin. "This internship is the perfect opportunity for Milo."

ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization selected by the state through a competitive process to serve as the local Community Based Care lead agency. As the lead agency, ChildNet manages the local system of services and supports for Broward's abused, abandoned and neglected children and their caregivers. This system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support. For more information on ChildNet, visit the Web site at [www.ChildNet.us](http://www.ChildNet.us) or call (954) 414-6000.

