



Guiding the Journey to Responsible Living™



Children and youth are raised in both traditional care settings as well as non-traditional care settings. Traditional care includes youth being raised by parents or extended family members. Non-traditional care includes any other care setting such as group homes, foster homes, residential treatment centers, and juvenile detention centers.

In the United States, there are increasing numbers of youth who are not fortunate enough to be served by the traditional social/educational system. As a result, alternative agencies and organizations exist to attempt to meet this population's basic

needs in non-traditional settings. Not surprisingly, youth who are raised in non-traditional care settings are significantly more likely to exhibit troubled behavior and rebel against formal structures, systems, and rules. More specifically, these troubled youth overwhelmingly fail to transition from dependent care facilities to responsible, independent living situations. Presently, a majority of non-traditional care services fall short of the long term needs of these troubled youth's development continuum.

Most intervention programs focused on supporting troubled youth in the United States are either short-term, event-driven, or customized for traditional family members. Usually, these programming efforts fail non-traditional youth due to stronger competing influences in the community and individual environments. In local regions and municipalities, troubled youth are referred to alternative schools and residence treatment programs based on a lack of other placement or support options. These organizations provide housing, education, specialist coordination and follow up field support but do not have bandwidth for transitional programming. Youth participants in these programs suffer because they are not able to realize their educational and vocational potential to become independent and productive citizens. Programs that do exist for youth in non-traditional care are often limited based on funding and the complexity of their evolving care situations. In addition, society suffers by paying the price for this inefficiency in the form of continued tax burden for care, increased incidences of crime, and overall unproductive citizens.

What is needed to eradicate this negative phenomenon is a dedicated training institute and resource portal focused on the educational/vocational development and effective transition of youth from residential treatment to independent living. The aforementioned transition barriers require a longitudinal development program that 1) establishes relationships with troubled youth early in their adolescent development, 2) provides educational, social, and professional development experiences, and 3) guides the transition from teenage dependent care to adult independent living.



**Support** The Zoeza Institute seeks and appreciates all forms of support that enhance the mission and help realize the objectives. Individuals and organizations can actively support the Institute in the following ways. Contributions are tax deductible and donors will receive documented acknowledgement of receipt letters.



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## Organization

The mission and vision of the Zoeza Institute address the problems faced by troubled youth in dependent care living situations and their inability to transition to gainfully employed careers that support responsible, independent living.

Inspired by the Swahili word “zoeza”, which means “to learn by doing”, the Institute aims to prepare troubled youth for successful transitions through access to knowledge and participation in meaningful, interactive learning experiences.

Utilizing three foundation pillars (Educational Supplementation, Social Immersion, and Professional Preparation), the Institute executes an ambitious set of goals and deliverables under the tutelage of a nationally recognized Board of Trustees and executive staff.



## Services

To implement the mission of the organization, the Zoeza Institute focuses on delivering services in three primary areas: Mentoring, Consulting, and Knowledge Management.

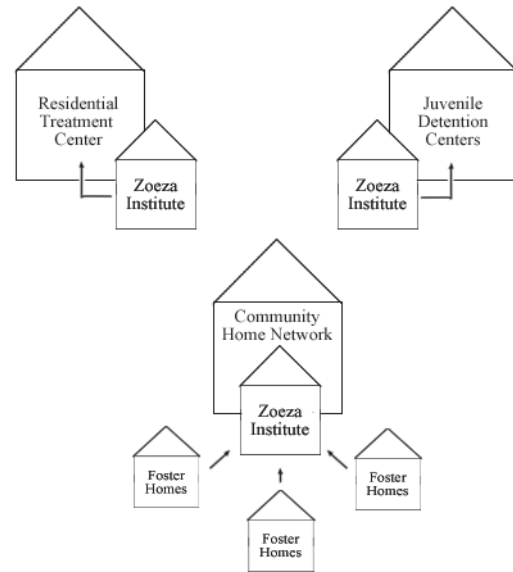


The Mentoring program utilizes the Surrogate Mentoring and Responsible Transition (SMART)™ service model to prepare troubled youth for successful, independent lives. The Consulting department works exclusively with social sector clients to provide services such as strategic planning, implementation support, professional development, and applied research. And, the Knowledge Management department collects, maintains, and provides a comprehensive array of resources and materials that support the Institute’s mission and are made available to students, parents, care providers, educators, and related community members.

The services of the Zoeza Institute are carefully designed, customized, and delivered to achieve maximum efficiency and optimum output towards serving the transition needs of troubled youth.

## Operations

The Zoeza Institute is a network of Institutes that provide a comprehensive set of services to support the successful career transition of troubled youth in dependent care settings. The Institutes physically operate in dedicated and established non-traditional (out-of-home) care settings.



A special site development process is utilized to customize an integration and operational approach for each Institute.



Staff and affiliated members are each certified to protect the well-being of the youth served and ensure proper training and competencies for specific work profiles. Through the three primary service areas of Mentoring, Consulting, and Knowledge Management, the Zoeza Institute hosts a variety of events to enhance the learning practicum for members and promote the work of the Institute for enhanced participation. Partners from all sectors contribute to the Institute’s interventions and solutions and supplement core programming areas. Finally, the Institute takes special care to measure the benefits and impact of delivered services to help improve operations, share best practices, and evaluate return on investment.