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The adjustment to college life and later to independence as an adult can be difficult, no matter one’s upbringing and family background. Imagine trying to make that adjustment as a former foster youth. At the age of 18, these young people are dropped from the foster care system, left to fend for themselves—often with little or no financial, emotional, or academic support and guidance. Any thought by them for a college degree must seem like a distant dream.

The university wants to ensure that their dream can become a reality, and with that, the Renaissance Scholars Program was launched in September of 2006. It provides those former foster youth with scholarships, housing assistance, counseling, and emergency funds.

The first 20 students entered the program with the start of the fall quarter in 2006. With each year that follows, 10 new students will be accepted into the program. But with more than 1,400 former foster youth and wards of the state enrolled in the university in 2006, the Renaissance Scholars Program works further assistance to help make each one’s dream a reality.

For Foster Youth Have a ‘Bridge’ to CSUEB as Renaissance Scholars

2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF PRIVATE GIVING

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