



Beyond Emancipation News

Meet B:E's Newest Board Member: Scott Amyx

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Scott Amyx, CEO of Clariity.com, joined B:E's board in January 2011.

Beyond Emancipation is pleased to welcome our newest board member, Scott Amyx, an entrepreneur based in the East Bay. If his name looks familiar, there's good reason: he and his wife Cinda founded L'Amix Tea Bar on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland. Scott is now the CEO of

Clariity Financial Services, which helps families plan for the future through an automated financial planning platform. Its mission: empowering families to make informed decisions about life and family finances as they journey through their greatest adventures together.

"I wanted to create a business that would put families first and to equip them to build a brighter, stronger future," Scott told us. His business emphasis on family and financial security is based on his personal history. Having grown up in "an impoverished, single parent home," he craved a close-knit family and to be free from the daily stress of trying to make ends meet. As an adult, with a family of his own, he vowed to start a new legacy of familial unity based on a strong spiritual and financial foundation. "Clariity is the convergence of the three things that I cherish most in life—my family, my spiritual walk, and equipping families to manage their finances."

Scott also spent time in foster care as a child, and is an alumnus of Alameda County's Independent Living Skills Program. His experiences are part of what inspires his interest in B:E's work. He acknowledges that he was "fortunate" to be able to continue living with his foster family after he left foster care. For other foster youths, however, "the situation is outright bleak. Without B:E, these young adults' options are few."

He takes another large measure of inspiration from his deep Christian faith, which teaches him that "as a society, it's our ... **continued p. 2**

Beyond Emancipation's mission is to help Alameda County's current and former foster youth make successful transitions to adulthood and living independently.

Internships Offer Students Exposure To The World Of Work

In our Fall 2010 issue, we introduced b2b, our then newly-emerging partnership with Laney College's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Office. b2b is a learning community focused on student success and creating paths to employment. The 17 students in the current b2b cohort, all former foster youth, have enjoyed a very productive academic year and are just wrapping up their spring semester. For several b2b students, paid internships have been a highlight of this term, providing these young adults the opportunity to forge professional relationships that range from the wild and wooly to the prestigious and profound.

CarolAnn Perales, 20, has held an on campus internship since November 2010. She works in the College's Office of the President, scanning, copying, filing, writing business letters, and helping with other administrative and clerical duties. For CarolAnn, however, the friendship she's formed with the President herself is worth far more than the skills she's acquired thus far.

"She's really nice, really just a sweet person," she said of Laney President, Dr. Elñora Tena Webb. CarolAnn is hoping to eventually transfer to San Francisco State University to pursue a career in criminal justice as a parole officer, and finds Dr. Webb very supportive of her ...**continued p. 2**





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b2b Students Learn, Grow Through Internships



b2b student Michael Watkins interns at Children’s Fairyland.

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plans. “We actually have a date to go visit San Francisco State together later this month.”

The Grocery Outlet, headquartered in Berkeley, hosts three intern slots. Bennie Tiapon, manager of the Oakland store, said he’s been “extremely impressed” with the b2b students he’s interviewed. “They’re often better prepared for work than many applicants who come in off the street.”

Bennie hired Ronisha Reed, 20, as an intern, but when a courtesy clerk position opened up, he hired her as part of his regular staff. When asked what set Ronisha apart, he has nothing but praise. “This job is 90% personality. The courtesy clerk is the last person the customer sees before

they leave the store. They have the opportunity to turn the shopping experience from average to good, or from good to great. With her big smile, Ronisha is a natural at providing that kind of customer service.”

Twenty-four year old Michael Watkins holds a very different kind of internship. He works with animals in the petting zoo at Children’s Fairyland, and has impressed his supervisor with his dedication. “Michael’s great,” she raves, “He’s very determined. He’s got a lot to prove and he goes above and beyond, honestly. Michael gets here early and goes home late - he never stops working.”

Debbie would like to keep this go-getter on board as regular staff after his internship ends. But Michael, a senator for the Laney College student council, has other plans. He intends to transfer to UC Berkeley and study neuroscience and genetics.

Michael also aspires to become a motivational speaker, and demonstrates his ability to inspire others with this message to other foster youth: “The situation that we were born into is not a bad thing...it’s a blessing in disguise. We go through what we think is a harder time than everyone else but it’s actually conditioning: we have more opportunities to be sharpened and developed humans. You are what you believe you can be. You might have to fight a little harder, but don’t let that trip you up. Be strong.”

To learn more about how your company or organization can host a b2b student intern, call Kate Durham at (510) 667-7686.

Scott Amyx: Board Member, Entrepreneur

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responsibility to care for the abandoned, marginalized and in need.” In Scott’s estimation, that includes the young adults B:E serves. “Foster youth, through no fault of their own, are the living consequence of broken families and broken promises. I wholeheartedly believe that B:E provides much needed supportive services, without which [many] youth would find themselves incarcerated, homeless or worse.”

Since joining the board in January, Scott has jumped right in, helping B:E widen its network of potential supporters, promoting the organization on Clariity.com, and serving on the Development Committee. We are glad to have dedicated volunteers like him helping lead the way.

Find out more about Clariity at <http://www.clariity.com>.





THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Beyond Emancipation's work is only possible because of our generous donors. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to us in 2010. We are grateful for each of you. Thank you!

(Donations received after December 31, 2010 will be acknowledged in our next newsletter.)

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B:E Fast Facts

- ♦ In fiscal year 2009-2010, B:E provided services to 1,006 current and former foster youth in Alameda County.
- ♦ Beyond Emancipation youth are enrolled in over 25 different colleges and universities in California and nationwide.
- ♦ 90% of our transitional housing clients striving to complete their GED or high school diploma reach their goal by the time they exit the program.

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- ⇒ Follow us on Twitter. <http://www.twitter.com/beyondemancitpn>
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- ⇒ Use your credit card to make a donation online. Use your Visa, Mastercard or Discover at <https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=18179>





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Executive Director's Corner

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to reflect on the issues faced by the 400,000 foster youth in the United States. Some of the facts are harsh. Employment and earning rates are low. Homelessness, pregnancies, and incarceration are high.

And yet, there is a great deal of hope and good in the facts as well. Alameda County former foster youth are currently enrolled in more than 25 colleges and universities nationwide. 17 students in our b2b Learning Community at Laney College have successfully completed their first academic year. Our transitional housing programs kept more than 50 youth off the streets and out of shelters this year. Many of our young people are not only surviving, but thriving.

The recognition of National Foster Care

Month is well timed, because spring is when many youth are dismissed from foster care. This year, more than 200 youth will leave the Alameda County foster care system. Many of them will look to B:E and our partner organizations to provide them with the support they need to ease their transition to independent adulthood. We, in turn, look to the community to help us meet their needs, and are lucky to have board members and internship providers - like the ones profiled here - as allies.

We'd love to count you among those allies. I invite you to visit B:E's website to find out how you can help, with your time, financial contributions, or ideas. Together, we can help more of Alameda County's former foster youth move from a place of hopelessness to a place of possibilities.

Rick McCracken
Executive Director

