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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Local Manufacturer Celebrates Partnership for Youth in Foster Care

*Fabricated Metals LLC to host a tour and kickoff for new partnership with Boys & Girls Haven.*

**Louisville, KY** – On Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>, Fabricated Metals LLC and Boys & Girls Haven, a local foster care agency, will celebrate a new collaboration to prepare teens and young adults in foster care for career success. The celebration is held in conjunction with celebrations across the region recognizing National Manufacturing Day (officially recognized on the first Friday of October each year).

As part of the kickoff event, students and other attendees will meet for a celebration at the Strong Hold Products division ([6333 Strawberry Lane, Louisville, KY 40214](https://www.fabricatedmetals.com)) before touring three separate facilities. Students will also have the opportunity to try their hand at skilled-trade activities during the tour.

The collaboration between Boys & Girls Haven's new Independence Readiness Program and Fabricated Metals LLC includes a gateway to expose young people to skilled trades and advanced manufacturing as potential career fields. Fabricated Metals LLC will provide a six-week co-operative program including job shadowing, apprenticeships, and the option of a further 90-day program leading to the potential for full-time employment. Boys & Girls Haven, in turn, will continue to provide case management, mentoring, life skills training, and therapeutic support to ensure success for each young person enrolled in the program.

This partnership is part of a broader Independence Readiness program at Boys & Girls Haven geared toward propelling a new generation of young people toward a successful transition to adulthood as they age out of foster care. The program will focus on a trauma-informed approach to **mentoring, life skills, and career readiness**.

"Foster youth often don't have the informal and formal supports in place to help get them through," says Stacy Brindley, Director of Independence Readiness. "Statistics show we as a community are still not doing enough to help these kids succeed as they transition into adulthood." The most readily available national research shows that young people aging out of foster care are facing chronic homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, joblessness and underemployment at much higher rates than their peers.

In addition to Fabricated Metals LLC, Boys & Girls Haven is collaborating with many other partners including Dauenhauer Plumbing, GE Appliances, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Humana, JCPS, JCTC, Kentuckiana Works, Oxmoor Auto Group, UPS, University of Louisville, and more.

"Only about 4% of youth aging out of foster care in the United States graduate with a 4-year degree," says Brindley. "While we will always encourage our young people toward high achievement in school, we have over 14,000 open jobs in manufacturing and skilled trades around Jefferson County. The jobs are there, and we want to ensure our kids are ready whatever direction they choose."

*[Boys & Girls Haven](http://www.boyshaven.org) is a full-service foster care agency located in Louisville, Kentucky. Since 1948, the 501c3 nonprofit has transformed the lives of thousands of abandoned, abused and neglected children by providing stability, education, and life skills that will lead to success in adulthood. We employ a multifaceted, therapeutic approach including residential and in-home foster care, transitional and independent living programs, career and life skills training, preventative community-based counseling services, and a variety of other programs and services.*

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