



## Shy'la Smith

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**Shyla Smith participated in the third Three Days on the Hill from May 17-21, 2015.** Beginning with this trip, participants began meeting with HUD annually. During the very first visit with HUD, Ohio foster youth laid the groundwork for FYI housing vouchers.

Shy'la Smith is a notable youth advocate whose leadership and service focus heavily on supporting current and former foster youth in Central Ohio. Her extensive experience includes:

- **Franklin County Youth Advisory Board:** She served as the Vice President of the board, assisted with facilitating multiple Leadership Retreats and participated on panels to share her insights with current and prospective foster parents.
- **Program Facilitation:** Shy'la has helped facilitate various community and life-skills programs, including:
  - Life Skills classes for Franklin County foster youth.
  - Suits for Success, helping foster youth obtain professional attire
  - The Ohio Teen Institute, a youth-led prevention and leadership program.
- **Public Service and Recognition:**
  - In 2015, she co-wrote an article for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) titled "Cultural Diversity in Foster Care."
  - She was featured on Daytime Columbus to discuss being awarded the Jack Donahue Scholarship, which recognizes exceptional leadership and resilience in youth who have experienced foster care.
  - Internship for Mid-Ohio Food Bank to address food insecurity in the region.

