



January 18, 2006

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to join my voice with yours in congratulating Youth Communication on the 25th anniversary of publishing *New Youth Connections* and *Represent: The Voice of Youth in Foster Care*, giving young people a voice and encouraging them to improve their lives and their communities.

Ensuring that young people who age out of foster care have the support and encouragement they need has long been a special concern of mine. While I was First Lady, I had the privilege of meeting with a group of young people who had aged out of foster care on their 18th birthdays. They shared with me the difficulties they faced – loneliness, homelessness, lack of health care and, most poignantly, the absence of anyone to call when they needed help. One of those young people shared with me a well-read copy of *The Heart Knows Something Different: Teenage Voices from the Foster Care System*. It was a well-written account of the challenges facing youth in the foster care system and it clearly touched the heart of all who read it. Some years later when the *Foster Care Independence Act of 1999* had passed the Congress, I was very pleased that the young man who had given me the book was present at the White House bill signing.

Through word and action the contributors to Youth Communication can and do make a difference for themselves and their peers. I send my thanks to each of you and my best wishes that you will continue to make it possible for young people to have a voice in our nation.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator