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For Immediate release:

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Essex Vicinage Hosts 11th Annual “Aging Out” Youth Conference

The Essex Vicinage will host a youth conference and information fair this week for approximately 150 youth who are aging out of the foster care system.

The event will be held Thursday, May 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the atrium of Rutgers School of Law, 123 Washington St., Newark.

The program offers educational workshops on such issues such as budgeting and finance, housing options, job opportunities and college readiness. Now in its 11th year, the program was initiated by Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria, who recognized the need to provide children aging out of the foster care system with more information about the options and resources available to them.

Participants can also compete in a talent show that includes music, dance and art.

This year’s program, “The Time is Right,” is sponsored by the Junior League of Montclair/Newark and the Oranges/Short Hills, and the United Way of Essex and West Hudson. It is coordinated through a joint effort of the vicinage’s Family Division, the Rutgers Law School Child Advocacy Center, the New Jersey Department of Children & Families, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Essex (CASA), Child Placement Advisory Council, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, the Attorney General’s Office and the Office of Law Guardian.

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