

MEET THE SOS CLASS OF 2022



We are extremely proud of our 2022 graduates who have continued to move forward with their educational goals in spite of many challenges they may have faced. Each has set clear goals as they continue to work towards bright and promising futures.

It's that time of year where we celebrate graduation as one of the most significant rites of passage in a young person's life! This is a particularly big accomplishment for youth coming out of foster care, as the odds are not in their favor. **Only 50% of youth in foster care graduate from high school, and just 3% obtain a 4-year college degree.** Unfortunately for foster youth, the financial resources, mentorship, support, stability, and guidance needed to complete postsecondary education or training programs are not common, resulting in these low numbers.

At SOS Children's Villages Florida, we help our young people defy the odds with a 100% high school graduation rate, and 85% go on to receive some form of secondary education. These results are achieved through the support of our Next Steps program providing a continuum of services for young adults who have aged out of care.



Name: Mar'Quze Smith
High School: Blanche Ely
Future: Ultimately attend Florida A&M University after undergrad.
Will Attend: Has applied to several in-state universities and is still making his final decision.



Name: J'LA Cherry
High School: North Gardens
Future: Secure my license as a stylist.
Will Attend: Technical college to study cosmetology.



Name: Tesia Haggins
High School: Henry D. Perry Education Center
Future: Build a house from the ground up and open a successful family restaurant.
Will Attend: Technical college to study culinary arts.



Name: Leo Lee-Spagnolo
High School: Spanish River
Future: Committed to psychology but may switch to a zoology degree. Hopes to work with and preserve animals.
Will Attend: University of Florida



Name: Jennaie Ginola Petit Frere
College: University of Central Florida with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Health Sciences.
Future: Continue working at the University Behavior Center as a medical scribe, and pursue a career in medicine.



Name: Ryan Mohorne
College: Florida A&M University with a B.S. in Public Relations.
Future: Attend Florida State University to get an M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communications, while he continues working as an Internal Communications Coordinator with the Florida Hospital Association.