



teddy bear times

Perks for a tiny teddy

US foster charity Forever Homes for Foster Children is hoping that one little bear can help children in foster homes cope with their ordeal

By Jill Mundy

A 'Tiny Teddy Named Cuds' is the creation of artist Robert Aragon, one of the leading fine art portrait artists in the world. His work is exhibited internationally and is represented and protected by the very prestigious Bridgeman Art Library. He is also an award-winning artist, writer and illustrator at 'A Tiny Teddy Named Cuds.' Robert has recently joined forces with US foster charity Forever Homes for Foster Children for their current fundraising campaign via online site Indiegogo. Participants offer 'perks' that members of the public can purchase, with the money paid going to help the plight of children in foster care.

The aim of the campaign is to raise funds to build families and communities, enabling foster children to get out of foster care and into a real, forever home with caring family members instead of

being forced out into the streets at 18 years old, alone and with no family support. The charity's website states: "We build communities because we save foster care agencies millions of dollars that can now be redirected to community infrastructure improvements such as streetlights, sidewalks and fire stations."

There are 84,000 foster youths in the US; young people like Veronica who need someone to help give them that chance at a better future. At 15 years old, she's your typical teenager. She was living with her father and thinking about her senior year, dating and going out with her friends. Boom! Her whole world changed because her dad was sent to prison for 10 years. Veronica was moved out of her

house and placed into foster care. She was moved to a new school and away from her friends. At 15 years old, there is almost no chance that Veronica will be adopted. On her 18th birthday, Veronica will be essentially put out on the street, alone and with no support and no family.

Once on the street, she has a 90% chance of becoming homeless, turning to drugs or prostitution, getting raped, becoming pregnant or ending up in prison, all before her 20th birthday, unless something happens to change her future right away.

Foster children are resilient, smart and adaptable. They just want a chance to have the same life as other kids.

Robert's perk

Robert is offering the unique perk of an original first printing of 'A Tiny Teddy Named

CUDS', two 8 x 10 inch lithographs and an original sketch of the character, drawn and signed by Robert. There will be only three of these perks available so why not give someone a unique and very special gift or treat yourself? For more information, or to purchase one of Robert's perks, please visit www.FosterKidsForeverHomes.org **TBT**

