



Fighting for the Forgotten: Tyana Butler and the New Blueprint for Child Protection

BY MICHAEL FERNANDEZ ON JULY 3, 2025

Before there was a mission, there was a moment. A teenager aging out of foster care, handed a trash bag and nothing else. No next steps. No family hug. No celebration. Just survival. [Tyana Butler](#) remembers that moment because she lived it. And now, she is building the brand and movement she wishes had existed when she was younger.

From Lived Experience to Lasting Reform

Tyana isn't driven by headlines or optics. Her advocacy is forged from firsthand experience inside a broken system. She grew up in foster care, aged out with no safety net, and still found a way to transform personal pain into structural change. Today, she is a leading voice in child welfare reform, not from the sidelines but from within the trenches.

Her story isn't neat. It's not the kind that fits cleanly into a 30 second sound bite. And that is exactly the point. The children she fights for, those aging out of care, navigating trauma, or falling through policy gaps, deserve more than slogans. They deserve systems that work.

What She's Building

Tyana's work bridges lived experience and legislative action. Her advocacy aims to change how this country protects, supports, and understands its most vulnerable youth. She is pushing for real solutions. One of those is a national child abuse registry that would close the dangerous gaps between state lines. Too often, predators disappear into paperwork, only to reemerge in new communities, free to harm again. Tyana wants to make sure that doesn't happen.

She is also challenging the instability of the current foster care exit age, which falls between 18 and 21 years old. Some youth are removed from the system as soon as they turn 18, while others remain until 21, depending entirely on the discretion of the system. There is no guaranteed support beyond 18, despite research showing that the brain continues to develop well into the mid-20s. For many, that 18th birthday marks a cliff, not a milestone. Tyana is fighting to extend access to housing, mental health care, and education during this critical window of development.

But her impact isn't limited to legislation. She is reshaping the way caregivers approach trauma. Through trauma-informed parenting programs and community education, Tyana equips foster and adoptive families with tools to understand behavior through a lens of healing, not control. For the first time, many families are learning how to connect instead of correct. This shift often transforms not just their children's outcomes, but their own emotional well-being.

Why It Matters Now

The cracks in the system are widening. Youth aging out of the foster care system face staggering rates of homelessness, incarceration, and untreated trauma. Many end up cycling through adult systems just as broken as the one they aged out of. These outcomes are not inevitable. They are the result of institutional neglect. And they can be changed.

Tyana's memoir, [*Diary of an Orphan: I Remember*](#), captures the weight of what happens when society looks the other way. But it is more than a personal story. It is a wake-up call. Her book is now being used in training and speaking engagements across the country, helping professionals understand what it actually feels like to navigate the child welfare system from the inside.

Beyond Awareness, Toward Action

Tyana's platform is not about performative outrage or fleeting visibility. It is about results. Whether she is consulting with legislators, leading workshops for foster parents, or speaking on national stages, her message remains grounded in one principle: protecting children should be the baseline, not the bonus.

Her growing coalition includes policy advocates, survivors, mental health professionals, educators, and everyday citizens ready to make a difference. She is turning empathy into action, one conversation at a time, one policy proposal at a time, one training at a time.

Join the Work

[Tyana's](#) brand is being built for longevity. Not just awareness, but transformation. As her public narrative continues to grow, she remains anchored in what makes her different. Not just her past, but her plan.

She is not interested in being a spokesperson. She is building a movement. This is not about going viral. It is about going deep. Because no child should ever be handed a trash bag and told that is adulthood.

If you have ever wondered how to help, [Tyana](#) has answers. Whether you are a policymaker, parent, educator, or someone who simply cares, her message is clear. The responsibility to protect children isn't someone else's. It is all of ours. Connect with [Tyana](#) on LinkedIn to follow her work and join the movement for change.

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I am a journalist with significant experience covering entrepreneurial, finance, economics, and business around the world. As the senior editor I report on how technology is changing business, political trends, and the latest culture and lifestyle. I have worked and written for CityAM, the Financial Times, and the New Statesman, amongst others.

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