



Dorin Matthews

Sylvia Hooper

FPA-Foundation The people's movement works to advance the civil and human rights of people through community organizing & advocacy, training, education, and public policy and legislative development. FPA-Foundation The people's Movement believe that everyone should have a voice in the decisions that affect our lives and be fully engaged in our democracy.

**Dorin C. Matthews** has a Bachelor's in Human Services and a **MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK**. She has been a foster/adoptive foster parent for the past eleven years and has faced many obstacles and challenges, with limited support from foster care agencies. While working as a foster parent advocate within a foster care agency, she observed that services were not being adequately provided to the foster parents and youths. She decided she wanted to make a change and break that cycle. The eleven years of experience motivated her to reach out and help foster youths & foster parents, by providing support, education and empowerment. Dorin believe's that the key for foster parents & foster youths in order to make changes is unity. Speak up and be heard! That is the only way change will happen.

**Sylvia M. Hooper** is an adoptive child who went back into the system after her adoptive parents passed away at age 15. She was then placed in kinship foster care, where she did not have a good experience. She has made it her personal mission to advocate for children, individuals and groups who are unable or incapable of doing so. Ms. Hooper has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Adelphi University and has her **MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK** She has worked for the Administration for Children Services as a Child Protective Specialist and also has knowledge and experience working in the foster care system. She observed the gaps in the foster care system that are affecting the children in care. She also observed the lack of support and guidance that was provided to both the foster parents and children in foster care. It was from her work experience and lack of support and commitment from her colleagues, that Ms. Hooper decided she wanted to take action and help the families and children of the community make a change.