

COMPREHENSIVE SPEAKER BIO

Theresa Collins, MS, MOD

National Speaker | Author | Resilience Advocate | Nonprofit Strategist

Theresa Collins is an engaging national speaker, author, and nonprofit strategist. Her powerful personal story and extensive professional experience inspire individuals and organizations to overcome adversity, challenge limiting beliefs, and create meaningful change.

As the Founder and Principal Strategist of Beacon Organizational Consulting, Theresa brings more than two decades of experience in nonprofit leadership and organizational strategy. She holds a Master's degree in Management and Organizational Development with an emphasis in Training and dual Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Social Change and Development, with an emphasis in Law and Justice.

Having entered foster care at age seven and eventually aging out of the system, Theresa understands firsthand the challenges of navigating adversity, overcoming obstacles, and building a future beyond difficult circumstances. Her experiences shaped her lifelong commitment to empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and advocating for those whose voices too often go unheard. She is the author of *Foster Kid Fierce: Road Trip to Freedom* and the creator of the #FosterKidFierce movement, which celebrates resilience, self-determination, and the power to rise above life's challenges.

Theresa's professional expertise spans youth development, child and animal welfare, homelessness, mental health, community action, organizational leadership, nonprofit capacity building, and philanthropic foundations. Throughout her career, she has helped organizations strengthen their missions, develop effective strategies, and raise millions of dollars to support community projects, programs, and essential services.

Speaking across the country, Theresa delivers dynamic keynote presentations, seminars, retreats, workshops, and customized trainings for nonprofit organizations, professional associations, conferences, educational institutions, and community groups. Her presentations blend compelling storytelling, practical insights, and actionable strategies on topics including resilience, overcoming adversity, leadership, personal empowerment, human connection, and creating lasting impact.

Community service has remained a cornerstone of Theresa's personal and professional life. Her involvement includes serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), foster parent, founding board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Manitowoc County, board member of Foster Families & Friends, and mayor-appointed member of the City of

Manitowoc's Citizen Advisory Council. She has also served on boards supporting mental health, social justice, and child advocacy initiatives. Her contributions have earned recognition, including the Chamber of Commerce's Future 15 Award.

Known for her authenticity, energy, and ability to connect with diverse audiences, Theresa brings a refreshing blend of humor, vulnerability, inspiration, and real-world experience to every engagement. Whether addressing professionals who serve vulnerable populations, inspiring individuals to overcome personal challenges, or helping organizational leaders strengthen their impact, Theresa leaves audiences with a renewed sense of purpose and the tools to turn inspiration into action.

Her message is simple yet powerful: Your past may be part of your story, but it does not have to determine your future.

STANDARD SPEAKER BIO

Theresa Collins, MS, MOD

National Speaker | Author | Resilience Advocate | Nonprofit Strategist

Theresa Collins knows what it means to overcome adversity. After entering foster care at age seven and eventually aging out of the system, she transformed her experiences into a lifelong commitment to empowering others, strengthening communities, and creating meaningful change.

Today, Theresa is a national speaker, author of *Foster Kid Fierce: Road Trip to Freedom*, and Founder and Principal Strategist of Beacon Organizational Consulting. With more than two decades of nonprofit leadership and organizational development experience, she brings a unique combination of lived experience, professional expertise, and practical insight to every audience.

Theresa speaks across the country, delivering inspiring keynotes, seminars, retreats, workshops, and trainings for youth-serving organizations, nonprofits, professional associations, and community groups. Her presentations explore resilience, overcoming adversity, leadership, human connection, and the power of individuals and organizations to make a lasting difference.

Known for her authenticity, humor, and engaging storytelling, Theresa challenges audiences to look beyond circumstances, recognize potential, and turn inspiration into action.

Her message: Your past may be part of your story, but it does not have to determine your future.

SUMMARY SPEAKER BIO

Theresa Collins is a national speaker, author, and nonprofit strategist whose powerful personal story and professional expertise inspire others to overcome adversity and create meaningful change. Having entered foster care at age seven and eventually aging out of the system, Theresa transformed her experiences into a lifelong commitment to empowering individuals and strengthening communities. She is the author of *Foster Kid Fierce: Road Trip to Freedom* and Founder and Principal Strategist of Beacon Organizational Consulting, bringing more than two decades of nonprofit leadership and organizational development experience. Speaking across the country, Theresa delivers engaging keynotes, seminars, retreats, workshops, and trainings for youth-serving organizations, nonprofits, professional associations, and community groups. Through authentic storytelling, humor, and practical insights, she explores resilience, leadership, human connection, and overcoming life's challenges, inspiring audiences to recognize their potential and turn inspiration into meaningful action.

EVENT PROGRAM BIO

Theresa Collins is a national speaker, author, and nonprofit strategist who inspires audiences to overcome adversity and create meaningful change. Having grown up in foster care and aged out of the system, she brings a powerful perspective on resilience, empowerment, and the potential within every individual. Theresa is the author of *Foster Kid Fierce: Road Trip to Freedom* and Founder of Beacon Organizational Consulting, bringing more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience. Through keynotes, workshops, retreats, and trainings across the country, she combines authentic storytelling, humor, and practical insights to inspire individuals and organizations to rise above challenges and make a lasting difference.