

The Youth Villages Transitional Living Program – Independent-Living Support for Youth Aging out of Foster Care



Providing Crucial Support to Former Foster Children

About 20,000 young people age out of foster care each year as they reach the age of 18. As adults, they no longer qualify for state support. After years of dependence on the state, many former foster youth find themselves unprepared to meet the responsibilities of adulthood. Besides finding a job, housing, health care, and managing a household on their own, former foster youth also struggle with difficult family situations, disrupted high school careers, emotional problems, and mental health issues that leave them at risk for failure.

Without support, studies show, many of these young people will not earn a high school diploma or find steady employment, nearly half get into trouble with the law, and about a third become homeless at some point in their lives. Former foster youth also continue to experience significant mental health problems at higher rates than adults who did not grow up in foster care.

Our counselors empower young adults

Since 1999, the Youth Villages Transitional Living program has helped more than 1,500 young people ages 17-22 who have aged out of foster care make a successful leap into independent adulthood. Participation in the Transitional Living program is voluntary. Specially trained counselors meet with Transitional Living participants at least once a week – and more often when needed – in community settings, including their homes, at school or on the job, at a doctor's office or wherever is most convenient to the youth.

Our counselors help former foster youth identify their goals and guide them each step of the way as they strive to: finish high school or obtain a GED; apply for college, scholarships, and begin a college career; find affordable housing; learn to budget; enter a job training program; obtain health and car insurance; access community resources; and reunite with their families if appropriate.

The Transitional Living program is part of Youth Villages' wide array of programs and services, which includes home-based counseling, residential and intensive residential treatment, mobile crisis services, group homes, treatment foster care, and adoption. For more information about our programs, go to www.youthvillages.org.



Youth Villages has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations since 1986.

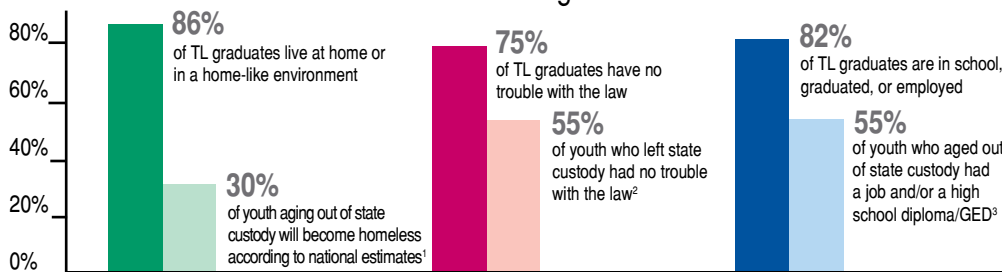
Helping Young People Become Successful, Independent Adults



Successful Outcomes for Youth Villages Transitional Living Participants

One year after discharging from the Youth Villages Transitional Living program, the great majority of TL graduates continues to live successfully and independently. The outcomes are starkly different for youth who do not receive support after leaving state custody:

Transitional Living Outcomes



Transitional Living follow-ups conducted at 12 months post discharge from Jan. 2003 through Dec. 2007.

¹ Child Welfare, Vol. 83 (5), 469-492;

² Child Welfare, Vol. 82 (6), 727-746;

³ Child Welfare, Vol. 78 (3), 339-360.



Koreem grew up in an abusive home and often had to protect his little sister. While in foster care at Youth Villages, he decided to enter the Transitional Living program to build a solid foundation for his future. His TL counselor helped him work toward his GED, find a job, and open a bank account. Koreem is now working to save for his dream – buying a house for himself and his sister.



Founded in 1986, Youth Villages has built a national reputation for offering the most effective programs and services to help emotionally troubled children and their families. Headquartered in Memphis, the private nonprofit organization provides a fully integrated continuum of services, including residential treatment, home-based counseling, treatment foster care and adoption, group homes, a transitional living program, crisis services, and family-based care for children with severe developmental disabilities.

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