

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAM

The goal of the Community Resource Program is to link foster youth with people, groups and programs in the communities where they live in order to increase their success upon discharge.

Additionally, the program focuses on increasing independent living skills for youth to prepare them for the challenges they face when leaving the foster care system at 18 years of age.

## *Independent Living*

The Independent Living program provides direction to the entire team and clearly defines the skills and steps needed to move youth toward independence. Several areas are emphasized, these include:

- ♡ Financial Literacy
- ♡ Employment Skills
- ♡ Education Skills
- ♡ Housing Skills

Each summer we offer Camp Kare which is a 9-week program that works to enhance the above mentioned independent living skills. Through an in depth life simulation, youth have an opportunity to learn and practice increasing skills in a safe and fun environment. To learn more go to [www.americanfoundationonline.org/resources.php](http://www.americanfoundationonline.org/resources.php) and select the Camp Kare brochure.



## *Transitional Living*

An independent transitional living plan is created for each youth who will be exiting foster care. The plan is coordinated with the entire treatment team, Independent Living program and the treatment plan. The focus adapts to individual needs of each youth and is determined by their goals.

Youth who are aging out of foster care may often remain in the program on waiver, until they attain the age of 19 or graduate from high school.

Our program offers some specific services to youth who turn 18 and “age-out” of foster care. These include:

- ♡ **Starter kits** - that provide various items needed for youth to begin living on their own (ex. sheets, towels, pot & pans, etc.)
- ♡ **Micro-loans** - that are available for youth on a case-by-case basis and are designed to help them with their transition to adulthood and independent living. For example, loans could be given for an apartment down payment, school tuition, transportation, etc.

