




Transformational Impact: **YVLifeSet.**

Phillips Foundation is proud to partner with Youth Villages, a leading nonprofit committed to serving and empowering vulnerable youth. With a grant of about \$860,000, our partnership expanded Youth Villages' YVLifeSet program to provide every youth who ages out of the mental health, juvenile justice and foster care systems in Guilford County, North Carolina, the critical, customized supports to help them transition into successful adulthood.

WHY WE ARE INVOLVED



more than
376 Guilford County youth are currently living in foster care and/or state custody



As a growing number of young adults "age out" of state custody each year, it is increasingly difficult for them to meet the demands of independent living. They often struggle with inadequate financial resources and mental health issues, causing them to face higher rates of homelessness and unemployment than other youth.

It is estimated that one third of youth who leave state custody at age 18 will experience homelessness, nearly 70 percent will get in trouble with the law and almost 50 percent will leave care without employment opportunity. As of 2015, in Guilford County alone, more than 376 youth are currently in foster care and/or state custody, with an average of 30 aging out each year and nearly 175 youth in the area currently in need of YVLifeSet services.



WHAT WE'RE DOING

YVLifeSet connects young adults with specialists who teach them necessary life skills, such as obtaining safe housing, managing finances, training for a job, accessing community resources and pursuing further education. Statistics show that one year after completing the program, more than 80 percent of participants live independently or are reunited with family, report no legal involvement and are enrolled in school or have graduated.

Our grant effectively helped double the size of the outcomes-based YVLifeSet program, allowing services to be offered to every youth exiting the foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems in Guilford County. Youth Villages was also able to hire an educational and vocational coordinator to develop partnerships with schools, employers and employment agencies that will result in increased opportunities for youth to continue their education and ultimately secure and maintain employment.



WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT COMES NEXT

As of April 2015, we remain on track to increase the YVLifeSet program by 200 percent in Guilford County by 2017 and significantly reduce legal involvement, homelessness, mental health challenges, and domestic partner violence while increasing overall employment rates and annual earnings. Youth Villages estimates this will result in more than \$4.8 million in direct savings to Guilford County taxpayers.

By 2017:



increase the YVLifeSet program by 200%



reduce the number of youth that will be incarcerated or commit a crime



generate more than \$4.8 million in savings to Guilford County taxpayers

In September 2015, the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund was approved by the North Carolina state legislature, ensuring that thousands more at-risk youth across North Carolina will receive YVLifeSet services to help them successfully transition from state custody to independent futures.