



### *A Bright Future for Shelby*

At the age of sixteen, after spending eight years in the foster care system, Shelby's Department of Human Services case worker referred her to the Independent Living Program (ILP).

Upon entering the program, Shelby was struggling academically and had no peer supports. Shelby, her DHS case worker, and her foster parents met with her ILP personal agent to help her set goals to achieve her dreams.

Shelby began taking the classes offered through ILP and meeting with her personal agent. It was then that she realized she wasn't alone. "The most important part of the program for me was my personal agent," said Shelby. "She taught me that everyone has struggles but you can learn to get through them in a positive way."

Through taking classes, working toward the goals in her personal transition plan, and accessing community programs with the help of her personal agent, Shelby is now thriving. She is working, paying rent, and is currently enrolled in college. She is looking forward to a bright future.

*Name and image changed for privacy reasons.*

## Independent Living Program

3737 Portland Rd NE Salem, Oregon 97301  
(503) 390-2600 | [ccswv.org](http://ccswv.org)

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

### About CCS

**Our Mission:** *We champion the positive development of children and adults, strengthen families, and build community.*

Catholic Community Services (CCS) is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Founded in Salem in 1938, today CCS offers 11 programs across 10 Oregon counties and serves more than 7,000 people each year.

CCS operates with fidelity to the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which call us to work for the common good and to serve our neighbors who are the poorest and most vulnerable. Our services are offered to all those in need, with appreciation and acknowledgement of the history, traditions, and beliefs of our diverse community. Our values of Love, Justice, Truth, and Freedom call us to safeguard the dignity of all people, to embrace their giftedness, and to focus on their dreams and aspirations.

To achieve our mission, our programs focus on four key outcomes: the people we serve enjoy safe, stable, nurturing relationships; they enjoy good health; they possess the knowledge, skills, and virtues they need to succeed at whatever is important to them in life; and they enjoy financial self-sufficiency.

Dedicated to providing the highest quality services, trauma-informed care, and research-based practices, CCS is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Child and Family Services, Behavioral Health Services, and Group Living Services.

Catholic Community Services

PO Box 20400, Salem, Oregon 97307-0400



Fostering Hope Initiative

v03232022



## Independent Living Program

*Helping youth transitioning out of foster care thrive at home, at school, and in their community.*

Catholic  
Community  
Services



# Independent Living Program for Youth

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a program for youth in Marion and Yamhill counties who are transitioning to adulthood from foster care. Youth are taught skills that will help prepare them to live independent, successful lives. Many have not had the opportunity to learn basic living skills because of the lack of stability in their young lives.

Basic living skills are taught through individual skill-building meetings, group skills classes, and community activities. Each youth is assigned a personal agent (PA) to help them develop a personalized transition plan based on their needs, interests, and talents. These plans are created in collaboration with Oregon Department of Human Services case workers, foster parents, and other supportive adults.

Each ILP participant is required to attend at least one meeting a month to remain in the program. They can attend as many classes as they choose. Classes range from housing, nutrition, money management, to college preparation, natural supports development, and job searching skills.

ILP personal agents assist youth in identifying and accessing programs, services, and resources that can help them become successful as independent adults. Some of these services include housing assistance, community work programs, and academic supports. Personal agents also provide guidance in how to resolve problems and issues in a positive, productive manner.

For many foster youth, ILP is the primary path to responsible adulthood.

## How are ILP services accessed?

Participants access ILP through a referral from their ODHS or Tribal case worker, or by self-referral. Participation in ILP is voluntary.

ILP serves 128 youth in Marion and Yamhill counties. Funding is made possible through the Oregon Department of Human Services and generous donors and supporters.

## Who is eligible for ILP?

Youth residing in Marion or Yamhill County who are age 14-21 and in foster care (Department of Human Services or Tribal) are eligible for ILP participation.

Also eligible are former foster youth living in Marion or Yamhill County up to age 23 who received at least 180 days of substitute care after the age of 14. Former foster youth who no longer have an ODHS worker may self-refer to ILP by emailing: [ilpreferrals@ccswv.org](mailto:ilpreferrals@ccswv.org).

## Support Our Work

Catholic Community Services is able to help make a difference in the lives of the youth served by Independent Living Program with the support of generous donors. We welcome and appreciate your support in time, talent, or treasure. Thank you for your kindness.

***We champion the positive development of children and adults, strengthen families, and build community.***

To donate online, visit:  
[www.ccsww.org/give-today](http://www.ccsww.org/give-today)