

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Independent Living Program is to assist young adults as they age out of traditional residential group care or who are out on their own and have difficulty maintaining their housing. These young adults need a hand up to help them become independent. The primary goal of this program is to function as that step forward by providing shelter and support in order for them to secure employment and stable housing. Where applicable, the program also supports an education plan. This is a flexible program intended to meet the needs of young adults seeking assistance. The Independent Living Program actively collaborates with other service providers and community resources to facilitate access to the full continuum of community services.

The Independent Living Program is intended to support:

- Youth ages 18-26
- Youth who are exiting foster care
- Young adults who are homeless
- Single mothers
- Those who are willing to attend and actively participate in the services offered, including mental health services, case management, community meetings, life skills/ psychosocial rehabilitation training and community outreach offerings
- Youth without a history of extreme violent or sexual criminal offenses and no current drug use





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WWW.FUMCH.ORG

Serving Children and Youth Since 1908

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other status protected by law except where such protected category is a bona fide occupational qualification (BFOQ), to the extent that someone's needs can be addressed and cared for within the scope of program services with the financial resources of the agency

The Children's Home makes services accessible and available for persons with communication challenges. An equal opportunity employer. Pursuant to Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, any disabled person wishing to access services or who may be in need of special assistance shout contact operator@fumch.org at least 48 hours in advance of the service or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please call the Children's Home at 386.668.4850 (TTY) or the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8771 (TDD)

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FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST **CHILDREN'S HOME** INDEPENDENT LIVING



transition to adulthood.

Denaijah's Story

"I first became part of the Independent Living Program at the Children's Home when I was 18, moving here after some family situations with my mother. If someone had told me a year earlier that I would have been able to get out of that toxic environment, I would not have believed them. I thought that I would be stuck there for the rest of my life."

A social worker at school first told me about the Children's Home and recommended I check it out. At first it was difficult for me to trust, but it happened a lot quicker than I thought possible. I remember getting in trouble for not making my bed during the first week. Making my bed was totally new to me. What seemed like a lot of strictness at first really turned out to be a lot of love. They wanted me to succeed.

The Independent Living Program has provided me with enough stability that I was able to work a full-time job while going to school full-time. I even made the President's List during my first college semester and the Dean's List during my second semester!"





SERVICES OFFERED

Young Adult and Family Shelter

• The shelter program is for ages 18-26 and offers a room, community kitchen and living room area, case management services with community outreach, and a residential advisor available 24/7.

Life Skills Training and Career Development

- Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) is a support system that includes community-based or clinic-based services. These services are designed to assist young adults in strengthening or regaining skills designed to help them succeed. Their success could be achieving their selfdetermined rehabilitation goals at work or in school, or in daily life. It is intended to assist the young adult in the development of the environmental supports necessary to thrive in the community with the least amount of professional intervention possible.
- Skills development is also offered and includes daily living skills (food preparation, money management and

budgeting, personal hygiene, maintenance of living area, etc.), social skills training, pre-vocational training and career development.

Mental Health Therapy

- Mental Health Therapy services are included in the Independent Living Program to provide residents with a holistic approach to help restore stability and wellbeing. Mental Health Therapy services can support the resident in controlling or eliminating their emotional symptoms and negative thoughts, allowing the recovery of ability to function and succeed. In addition, Mental Health Therapy services may also be provided to address past trauma that may be causing distress and hindering progress.
- Mental Health Services offered include assessments, treatment planning, as well as individual and group sessions. These services are directed towards reaching autonomy and independence by addressing the trauma, emotions and thought processes that may limit personal functioning.