



### *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. She taught me that everyone has struggles but you can learn to get through them in a positive way.”

Through taking classes, working towards the goals in her personal service 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 & Image changed for reasons of privacy.

## Independent Living Program

2933 Center Street, Salem, OR 97301-4527  
503-362-2225

### Office Hours

Monday- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### About CCS

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

Catholic Community Services is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Founded in Salem in 1938, today CCS offers 17 programs across nine Oregon counties and serves more than 2,000 people each year.

We operate 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. We do so without regard to anything other than their needs and their willingness to do everything they can for themselves. Our values of love, justice, truth and freedom guide 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

P.O. Box 20400, Salem, OR 97307-0400 | CCSwv.org



## Independent Living Program

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





## Independent Living Program for Teens

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 service plan based on their needs, interests and talents. These plans are created in collaboration with 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 search skills.

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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.

### 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.

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

### Who is eligible?

Youth residing in Marion or Yamhill County who are age 16-21 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 who are age 16-21 and received at least 180 days of substitute care after the age of 14.

### How are ILP services accessed?

Participants access ILP through a referral from their DHS or Tribal case worker. Participation in ILP is voluntary.

ILP participants receive a monthly newsletter informing them about upcoming ILP events, information on skills classes, and helpful tips for independent living.

ILP serves 105 youth in Marion and Yamhill counties. Funding is made possible through the Oregon Department of Human Services and generous, concerned donors and supporters.