

ILYA – Independent Living for Young Adults – is a well-established social justice project of First Unitarian Church of Wilmington that helps young people who age out of foster care when they turn 18 years old and are suddenly “out on their own.”

In February 2012 we entered into a partnership with the Catholic Charities Thrift Center that greatly improved and streamlined what we are able to do. This partnership allows the ILYA youth to shop from an extensive selection of items for free and choose items they prefer rather than being given what might be available from any limited inventory we could provide directly.

The Thrift Center has been in the “furniture business” for more than 60 years, has a LARGE storage space, a license to sanitize mattresses, and many resources we couldn’t possibly provide.

ILYA frequently publicizes this partnership to First UU members and friends, encouraging them to think of and call the Thrift Center when they have items to donate. This steady stream of donations is what allows the ILYA youth to shop for free.

The Thrift Center accepts many types of items – not just furniture, but also:

- clean clothing and linens in good repair
- shoes and boots in good condition
- large and small appliances in working order
- glassware
- flatware
- Cooking equipment (pots & pans, utensils, bowls, measuring cups/spoons, etc.)
- wall decorations
- jewelry
- and many other types of household and personal items.

NOTE: The Thrift Store cannot accept items that must be cleaned, mended or repaired.

This arrangement greatly expands what our members and friends can donate, gets us out of the pick-up business, and eliminates bad feelings that have resulted when we have had to refuse some items a member wishes to donate.

Items the Thrift Center cannot take:

- **Tube-type TVs**
- **Entertainment Centers**
- **Baby Cribs**

The Thrift Center will schedule pick up for large items. If there are additional small items, they will take them also with the pickup. However, they cannot pick up small items such as bags of clothes, boxes of small household items or small appliances like toasters or microwaves. (It is not economically feasible for The Thrift Center to send a vehicle to pick up those isolated small items.) Small items can be dropped off at:

- The Thrift Store, 1320 East 23rd Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19802
(Monday-Friday 9:00 – 4:00)
- Catholic Charities' Main Office, 2601 West 4th Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19805
(Monday-Friday 9:00 – 4:00)

Here's how it works:

- **To arrange for a free pick-up of large/furniture items, contact the Thrift Center at (302) 764-2717. Give the code: "ILYA."** The Thrift Center keeps track of donations and periodically reports to us the items that come through ILYA.
- **At pickup please write "ILYA" on the part of the receipt the DRIVER takes back to the Thrift Store, so the store will know your donation is connected with ILYA.** (The driver will give you a receipt for tax purposes. You are responsible for establishing the value of the items you donate.)
- The professional counselors who work closely with ILYA youths develop a list of items that the ILYA youth needs. We then provide a voucher that is honored by the Thrift Center.

The youth goes to the Thrift Center with his/her counselor, where s/he shops – at no cost – from the entire warehouse for items on the voucher. They have a MUCH wider variety of items to choose from than we ever had space for in our very limited facilities – and – for the first time – the ILYA kids are able to select what goes into their apartment. (In the past, we always picked out the items from our very limited inventory and delivered them sight unseen by the young person.)

- After they select the items, we arrange for delivery via the Thrift Store's box truck and delivery men.

If you have questions about donating, please contact Leslie Dickerson at 302-475-3369 or leslie.dickerson@outlook.com

Thanks for thinking of the ILYA young people. Your support makes a real difference!