Aging out of foster care in Delaware

In Delaware, young people age out of foster care at age 18 or upon graduation from high school. They enter the adult world often with an extended history of no stability, little trust in “the system” and people in general and few skills that support them being fully independent.

Having been told where and with whom to live (often experiencing many changes) and what to do with little opportunity to make the decisions, many just want to be free of the system. But then what?

With few resources, they set out into the adult world. But they aren’t alone. ILYA, a Social Justice Program at First Unitarian Church of Wilmington is here to help.

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington Supports Young Moms

ILYA
Independent Living For Young Adults
Supporting social justice in our community

Can you help a young person who has aged out of foster care who is going to be a mother?

Baby Showers

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington
730 Halstead Road
Wilmington, DE 19803
302-478-2384

For more information about the Student Care Package project contact:
Vanessa McClafferty
vbotta1@gmail.com

For more information about ILYA, contact:
Lois Morris
Lcm2unow@gmail.com

Please visit our Facebook page for more up-to-date information.
Background
Most mothers-to-be feel somewhat anxious about pregnancy, labor and delivery and becoming a parent. When she has little support, no strong role models, is unaware of resources available to her and is also very young, it can be very frightening and overwhelming.

Knowing there are people who care about her and her unborn child, who are willing to give a helping hand can make a significant difference to the mother and baby.

ILYA’s Goal
- Build a positive emotional environment and support network for young women who have aged out of foster care and lack a strong healthy support system.
- Through donations, provide basic essential baby care items to help assure a safe and healthy start to the parenting experience.
- Model compassion and caring to young women who may have never experienced those and encourage participation in group parenting support networks – in person, on-line and reaching out to ILYA-arranged contacts.

What is needed?
- Volunteers to attend a baby shower
  - Provide refreshments
  - Help set up/decorate
  - Help create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the guest of honor and her guests
  - Be willing to share parenting experiences in a way that is encouraging while instructive.
- Volunteers to be support contacts regarding parenting and childcare issues and needs
- Donors willing to use baby registries to provide needed baby equipment and supplies as gifts.

The ILYA team thanks you!!!