

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.

For more information about the Student Care Package project contact:

Amy Barch

Barch.amy@gmail.com

For more information about ILYA, contact:

Lois Morris

Lcm2unow@gmail.com



First Unitarian Church
of Wilmington Delaware

730 Halstead Road
Wilmington, DE 19803
302-478-2384

**First Unitarian Church of
Wilmington
Celebrates Graduates**

Graduation Backpacks & Pizza Party

ILYA

Independent Living
For Young Adults

Supporting social justice in
our community





Celebrating Accomplishment!

How it works

Each May, church members and friends are invited to help fill backpacks as gifts to our young graduates that are aging out of foster care. The contents are items they can take with them on to college campus or a new apartment – a set of towels, a pop-up hamper – and include a gift card that the grad can use to purchase what they'd like.

In June, we hold a pizza party to bring the graduates together to celebrate their accomplishment. And a huge accomplishment it is. Living in such unstable situations is a huge challenge. Often they have had multiple school changes in addition to all the emotional trauma they endure.

This celebration is often the only acknowledgement and celebration these young people will have. We also invite alumni to attend to have our high school grads believe they really can go on and be successful with further education. Strong connections have developed that form strong support networks.



The ILYA team thanks you!!!



You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.

Tom Brokaw

