

## ILYA History

## Mentoring and Tutoring

This part of the ILYA program has consistently been difficult to accomplish. There are a number of factors that create hurdles to success. They are:

- The youth don't like to have anyone know they are struggling with studies/issues.
- The youth's schedules with work and other commitments (including child care) often are not on any regular basis making meetings difficult to coordinate.
- In order to protect the privacy and safety of the youth and volunteers, finding a convenient public place to tutor presents a challenge particularly when the youth must rely on public transportation.

**2005 -2006** In the early years, connections to tutors and mentors were made through ILYA in various ways. Members of the ILYA team met with Independent Living Coordinators (ILCs) to discuss tutoring, among other things. Although a couple of young adults were able to connect to tutors, others were not. Eight young adults requested tutoring, mostly for GED preparation. Some mentors/tutors connected with students as volunteers with the Student Care Package project. Others were matched through connections made by the ILCs.

Some of the people who mentored/tutored are Carol McKelvey, Florence Ploener, Lynn Ingersoll, Connie Cluff, Gayle and Dave Sheppard. Some ways these volunteers assisted the young people were driving to a job interview, setting them up with furniture, bringing gifts from travels, helping with child care and transportation to complete a degree program.

**2007** Even though there was a great deal of planning to set up tutoring, including the development of a five page *ILYA Academic Tutoring Plan*, there was little success. The young adult was to be accompanied by the ILC, which made planning difficult. Often the young adults were unable or reluctant to meet the tutor.

**2008 Peer Support Group/Lunches** ILC Sue Dougherty and "advisor" Kyrianna Ruddy set up a lunch with young adults to increase their comfort in meeting volunteers. Though several young adults indicated they would attend, only three were able to do so. These lunches were discontinued as attendance was inconsistent and unreliable.

**2009** The **CHAMP** (Creating Hopeful Adults Mentoring Program) was developed through West End Neighborhood House. CHAMP Network envisioned communities across the state unified in their mission to provide every foster care youth with a nurturing one-to-one relationship and community support, which in turn allows the youth to develop to their fullest potential, capable of making informed, responsible decisions as empowered adults. ILYA had hoped to become involved in this program, but unfortunately, it didn't work out.

**2017 - 2018** Based on information from the ILCs, a renewed effort to offer tutoring seemed to be worthwhile. Team member Charlotte Grabau is a professional tutor and volunteered to be available to any student seeking assistance. It was agreed that the initial meeting with any student be in the presence of their ILC to create a comfortable introduction as well as to reinforce responsibility in keeping the appointment. Again week-to-week work schedules frequently interfere as consistent hours are not often what these youth experience. Charlotte continues to make herself available to any student requesting tutoring.