

## 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.

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**First Unitarian Church of  
Wilmington  
Making Holidays  
Brighter**

## Holiday Giving



# ILYA

**Independent Living  
For Young Adults**

**Supporting social justice  
in our community**





**Bringing cheer  
to those who  
have little!**



## How it works

Each November, church members and friends are invited to take a wish list (or items from a wish list) that is submitted by Independent Living Coordinators for their young clients who have aged out of foster care. Purchased items are brought to church and then packaged for delivery to the young recipients.

Often, these gifts are the only holiday gifts the young people will receive. Many times they ask for basic need items to just help them get by. But requests run the gamut... from ukulele to giant teddy bears and everything in between.

**Check out the collages in the hallway near the Brunner Chapel from past year's Holiday Giving**



**The ILYA team thanks  
you!!!**



First Unitarian Church,  
Thank you so very much  
for your generosity.  
Your Christmas gifts are  
greatly appreciated.  
Thank you from the  
bottom of my heart! ♡  
God bless you all!