



Our Mission

To provide a safe, nurturing, and therapeutic environment within the community that allows children to learn and develop the life skills necessary to return to their families and become productive members of the community.

Our Vision

Children should have the opportunity to “inherit tomorrow” by developing the skills necessary to function in a family or independently in the community.

Our Core Values

- Children are our top priority.
- Children deserve the opportunity to develop life skills in a safe, therapeutic environment within their home community.
- Children are responsible for their own behavior.
- We will advocate for children in all aspects of their lives.
- We will partner with others to provide optimal services to children.
- We will always look for ways to improve our services to children and their families.
- We, at Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc., can provide no greater service than to be appropriate role models for the children we serve.

Referral Information

Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc. is dedicated to providing youth with training and opportunities to develop life skills to thrive as a contributing member of our community.

If your organization is working with an individual who would benefit from our program, please contact us at 812.428.0698 for more information.

We look forward to showing you first hand the impact that can be made in a youth’s life through our Independent Living Program and the lasting outcome this program can have on our community.



Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc.
2700 W. Indiana Avenue
Evansville, IN 47712
Phone 812.428.0698 • Fax 812.429.9655
www.hillcrestyouthhome.org

Independent Living Program





About Independent Living

The Independent Living Program is a program offered through Hillcrest Washington Youth Home that is designed to provide individuals ages 16 through 18 years with the skills and knowledge necessary to live independently in the community.

Individuals are referred to the program through the Department of Child Services and the juvenile court system. The program is an extension of the residential program at Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, and individuals must reside at the home to participate in the program.

The individual will complete an Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment® upon admission and will work with our treatment team and the referral agency to develop an individualized plan that best fits the individual's needs.

The plan reflects goals set to enhance existing skills and develop additional life skills to guide and prepare the individual for a future of self-reliance and independence. Throughout the course of the program, the individual will retake the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment® to evaluate progress and restructure the plan if needed.

Life Skills Training

Individuals in the Independent Living Program learn and practice daily life skills in weekly group sessions that are based on the following Ansell-Casey life skills areas:

- **Career Planning** - identifying careers of interest, developing a career plan, understanding the importance of employment, learning about various aspects of employment and work place communication.
- **Communication** - understanding self-esteem and one's personal strengths and weaknesses, recognizing the impact of caring, respectful, responsible, and honest relationships and the elements of proper communication.
- **Daily Living** - learning about nutrition, menu planning, grocery shopping, meal preparation, dining, kitchen clean up and storage, budgeting/spending, leisure time and legal issues.
- **Home Life** - understanding how to safely use kitchen equipment to prepare and cook a meal or snack, caring for clothes and understanding the importance of home safety.
- **Housing and Money Management** - learning about housing, transportation, savings, income tax, banking and credit, consuming, and exploring beliefs about money.
- **Self Care** - learning the importance of maintaining good personal hygiene, staying healthy, seeking medical attention, taking prescriptions, and knowing the risks that are associated with drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.
- **Social Relationships** - learning everyday etiquette, understanding how anger, dishonesty, and disrespect can impact relationships, knowing one's own cultural identity, understanding different cultural

groups and their beliefs, and learning how to maintain healthy friendships and relationships.

- **Work Life** - learning how to search for employment, fill out an application, develop a resume and cover letter, use common workplace technology and maintain employment.
- **Work and Study Skills** - Understanding why and how to do homework, the steps to achievement and advancement in the educational system and how to use resources such as the newspaper, internet or yellow pages to access information.

"My Life" System

The individual takes part in the "My Life" system which is an educational independent living tool designed to teach an individual how to budget and manage money. With the "My Life" system, each individual makes a plan and sets goals for his or her life: now, next week, next month, and so forth.

Each individual is given a beginning balance of "My Life Dollars" (not real currency) and is responsible for securing an apartment, utilities, transportation, and other expenses that are incurred in daily living. Individuals receive money through bi-weekly "My Life Checks" that are based on a 30 to 40-hour work week. Additional "My Life Dollars" can be earned or deducted depending on the individual's performance and behavior.

The goal is to teach the individual the skills needed to live in a real world atmosphere and become financially independent.