

# Youth Villages



Providing Support for a Successful Adulthood



**564**

**IT'S ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 564 CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE CURRENTLY IN FOSTER CARE AND/OR STATE CUSTODY IN GUILFORD COUNTY ALONE.**

Phillips Foundation is a proud partner of Youth Villages, a leading nonprofit that serves and empowers vulnerable youth nationally.

Our \$860,000 grant expanded Youth Villages' YVLifeSet program across Guilford County, North Carolina, to proactively provide every youth aging out of the foster care, mental health and juvenile justice systems help transitioning into successful adulthood through critical, customized supports.

### WHY WE ARE INVOLVED

It is estimated that one-third of youth who leave state custody at age 18 will experience homelessness at some time in their lives, nearly 70 percent will get in trouble with the law, and almost 50 percent will leave care without employment opportunity. It's estimated that more than 564 children and youth are currently in foster care and/or state custody in Guilford County alone, with an average of 18 aging out each year and more than 100 youth in the area identified as needing YVLifeSet's transitional services.

### WHAT WE'RE DOING

YVLifeSet connects young adults with specialists who teach them necessary life skills, such as obtaining safe housing, managing finances, job training, accessing community resources and pursuing further education. Statistics show that two years after completing the program, 87 percent of participants live independently or are reunited with family, report no legal involvement, and are enrolled in school or have graduated. Our partnership with Youth Villages doubled the size of this evidence-based program, extending services to every youth exiting the foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems in Guilford County and creating a countywide proof of concept for statewide expansion. Youth Villages has also been able to hire an educational and vocational coordinator to engage more schools, employers and employment agencies that will result in increased opportunities for youth to continue their education and ultimately secure and maintain employment.

### WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT COMES NEXT

Our support has helped increase the YVLifeSet program by 200 percent in Guilford County and significantly reduced legal involvement, homelessness, mental health challenges

and domestic partner violence, while increasing the overall employment rates and annual earnings of this vulnerable population. Youth Villages estimates this has resulted in more than \$4.8 million in direct savings to Guilford County taxpayers. With this model and proof of concept, the North Carolina State Legislature approved the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund in 2015, securing more than \$6 million in state funding to date to ensure that thousands more at-risk youth across North Carolina receive YVLifeSet services to help them successfully transition from state custody to independent futures.

