

## **Transitional Living Program at Open Door Youth Shelter – West Town**

**PURPOSE:** Not all youth who participate in our Interim Program are ready for independence within a 120-day period. One problem residents encounter when leaving our Interim Program is a lack of safe, age-appropriate housing. Our *Transitional Living Program* works with residents more comprehensively as they work toward independence. Expected stay is about 7 – 9 months, although residents can stay for up to two years.

**RESIDENTS:** This program serves youth ages 16 to 20, who are not wards of the State and their children.

**PROGRAM:** Our Transitional Living Program operates on the fourth floor of Open Door Youth Shelter – West Town. We have two wings – separated by gender - with two apartments each. The program serves four young men and four young women and their children at one time. Youth work in partnership with staff to achieve long and short-term goals for education, employment and housing resulting in permanent, stable housing. Daily, youth are responsible for maintaining their living space.

### *Short-term Goals:*

- Improve independent living skills
- Improve educational and/or employment skills
- Increase savings/income
- Address clinical concerns
- Increase knowledge of, and access to, permanent housing

### *Long-term Goals:*

- Improve and maintain the self-sufficiency and developmental growth of the youth served
- Transition those youth into permanent housing

### **SERVICES:**

#### *Case Manager:*

- provides life skills training through a bi-monthly educational group
- assigns tasks and activities based on the results of a life skills assessment
- assists youth in increasing their savings by developing and monitoring a savings plan, based on a percentage of their income.
- assists youth in developing a plan to obtain permanent housing through use of a housing assessment, workshops on maintaining housing, and facilitating transitions to permanent housing programs and private landlords.

*Independent Living Coaches* assist with the day-to-day care of residents, serving as positive role models and ensuring all policies, procedures and house rules are followed.