The Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento (CRH) provides shelter in more ways than a building alone can. Since 1944, CRH has provided comfort, stability and security to children and youth affected by abuse or neglect. For an 18-year-old with nowhere to live and no family to guide or support him, the Receiving Home’s newest program, the Independent Living Program (ILP), is a source of something equally significant, although increasingly more elusive: hope.

For youth living in foster care, the future holds little promise. According to the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency Community Action Plan 2012-2013, an average of 180 foster youth age out of Sacramento County’s child welfare system each year without a community connection. Nationally, 40 to 50 percent of foster youth become homeless within 18 months of emancipation and 25 percent are incarcerated within 24 months. CRH’s Independent Living Program (ILP), is the critical missing link between emancipation and self-sufficiency. The ILP team provides housing, case management, support and services that empower young adults to become increasingly independent as they finish their schooling, develop their career path, enter the workforce and gain the specific skills needed to live on their own. At age 18, youth are transitioned to furnished apartments near the CRH campus and continue to receive support services; but catching a break is tough.

First jobs often come from a friend or family member; someone willing to stick their neck out for a young person with zero experience and almost zero skills. Consider the youth who grow up in foster care; many have moved homes and schools dozens of times. Who will vouch for them? What business owner will take a chance on a presumably unreliable stranger? By reaching out to local business owners, CRH staff make that all important connection and help open employment doors. Each ILP youth has a supportive team behind them, at the ready, to ensure they are successful in their first job. Maybe it’s transportation they need, or help resolving challenges they may face in their work place, the ILP youth have someone to assist them and encourage positive work habits.

The Sacramento community is invited to partner with ILP to open employment doors for youth transitioning out of foster care. This is a great opportunity to make a tangible difference, either by bridging a connection with an employer or acting as the employer. Members of the Sacramento community can be like the friends of the family who open the first employment door and help a foster youth take a step toward a bright future.

A current ILP resident just got a job at a retail store thanks to the support of her ILP team; she has aspirations for bigger things. Since coming to CRH, LaKreesha has graduated high school, went on a college tour, became a full-time student at ARC, transitioned to her own apartment and obtained employment. When asked about her accomplishments she said, “Yes, I have a lot to be proud of, huh?” She spent her entire first check on Christmas gifts for her younger siblings.

The Children’s Receiving Home is committed to positively impacting the lives of children, youth and families affected by abuse, neglect, behavioral health issues and trauma. CRH provides 24-hour emergency refuge to nearly 1,400 such children each year. In addition to shelter care and ILP, CRH provides comprehensive assessments, medical assistance, counseling and social work, on-site and community based mental health services, a pilot program called Residentially Based Services that focuses on reunifying youth and families, an on-site school and recreation.

70% of teens who emancipate from foster care want to attend college.

League of Women Voters Life After Foster Care 2012.

Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento

Hope for the future

CohnReznick is proud to support the Receiving Home’s dedication to provide services that improve the safety, stability and well-being of youth in our community.

— Jenny Gilbert,
Senior Marketing Manager, CohnReznick