



lifeline
heritage builders

Supporting youth as they transition from foster care to independence.

Community Partnership Overview

Heritage Builders is a ministry, of Lifeline Children's Services in collaboration with local churches, that provides relational and tangible supports to older youth in foster care as they age out of the child welfare system.

The name represents the goals of Heritage Builders. The word "heritage" implies that the future does not have to be dictated by the past; it signals hope that breaking generational cycles is possible. The word "builders" indicates a partnership and that the youth's life is not something to be fixed but rather to be strengthened for a fruitful adulthood.

The Need

As you are aware, without intervention, youth leave the foster care system with little positive adult support, limited knowledge of basic life skills, and minimal resources. These factors paint a despairing future, with high percentages of unplanned pregnancies and school dropouts. When young people age out totally alone, there is a significant increase in their likelihood to: become victims of human trafficking, be incarcerated, abuse their own children, and face chronic homelessness.

The Vision

Local church members will come alongside youth to support them during the planning and launching years to help remove barriers and build-up the person. To ensure compliance with government standards and a strong understanding of the complexities of working with youth in foster care, Lifeline will provide the volunteers with trauma-informed training, guidance related to screening requirements, and ongoing educational supports.

The Solution

The volunteers are equipped to initiate and grow relationships with youth at this critical life juncture through: advocating in one-on-one relationships, providing regular training for youth in skills they will need in the future, and connecting them to community resources to which they might not otherwise have access. The chart below further details each function.

Advocates

- Meet one-on-one with youth four hours a month
- Background checked and screened through child welfare
- Thoroughly trained and supported
- One-year minimum commitment

Life Skills

- Regular training of independent life skills with field experts
- Based on the needs of youth in care
- Practical and interactive to apply to a variety of learning capacities

Resource Connections

- Focused on the tangible needs of youth as they transition to independence
- Includes one-time and ongoing access
- Based on both local availability and multiple-community networks

If you would like to learn more about Heritage Builders, please email us at heritagebuilders@lifelinechild.org or visit us at lifelinechild.org/heritage-builders/.