

It's my choice.



Independent Living Arrangement

I want a bright future and I know I need help to get there.

I'm choosing an ILA program because I know it will lead me to a better life.

So let's get real. I'm aging out of traditional foster care services and now have to learn to take care of myself.

Going it alone is no good.

I just didn't know what I didn't know about being independent. And, "independent" doesn't mean living alone. The reality is, I need to have a housemate so I can learn to share expenses and actually have a social life.

So here I am. My first step is making use of Fostering Futures funding and spending about a year enrolled in an ILA program. I'll make my plan, then get everything straight so my plan will work. Otherwise, I may become homeless with nowhere to go.

I'm going to have a good life. Just watch me.

THROUGH COACHING & COUNSELING I'M:

- getting help managing day-to-day life.
- learning independent living skills related to school, jobs, transportation, food.
- managing my money, taking care of myself, and making friends.
- getting help making a doctor's appointment and opening a bank account.
- learning to speak up for myself so no one takes advantage of me or crosses my boundaries.
- going to graduate from high school and enroll in college or a job training school.
- going to find a job and a career.

CONTACT

Karen Swansey
ILA Executive Director
KSwansey@vhbg.org
804-716-8743



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Convenient Location

Our property, nestled on 30+ park-like acres is a safe, therapeutic neighborhood with an ILA Commons. Just a few steps from our ILA homes, the Commons includes recreation and meditation rooms, a technology room for job searching, and socializing space for celebrations and independent living classes.



Located in Henrico, Virginia just minutes from Short Pump, the area was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best places to live in America. With close proximity to colleges, employment, health care, shopping, and entertainment, the area offers public transportation and a walkable commute to jobs.



Population Served

Males and females ages 17-21

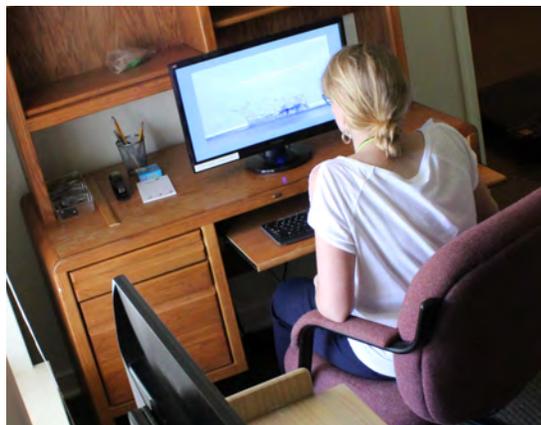
-who are in the custody of Virginia Department of Social Services

-who have a desire to reach successful independence through support and services

-have a history of being actively engaged in services

-are willing to enter into and abide by an agreement with VHBG regarding rules and responsibilities

-are able to maintain enrollment in an educational program OR participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment OR working at least 80 hours a month (or medically incapable of engaging in these activities).



VHBG's ILA is a nonprofit licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services to currently serve up to 12 youth. ILA is one of VHBG's core program areas that serve youth who need hope for their future.

8716 West Broad Street / Henrico, VA / VHBG.org