

“W.A.Y.” is a structured learning experience for youth to explore various career paths to help foster growth towards independence and self-sufficiency.”



W.A.Y.

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A Few Campus Jobs...

Cafeteria



Landscaping



Mail Courier



WAY- at a glance

- Long-term individualized counseling
- Educational advocacy and tutoring
- Work experiences and work ethics training
- Utilizes the Ansell-Casey curriculum to monitor progress and outcomes
- Motivational activities and life skills workshops
- Banking and savings programs with incentives to save for the future
- Gateway to independence



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The
Children's
Home

W.A.Y.

WORK
APPRECIATION
FOR YOUTH

A
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

The Children's Home

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The Children's Home

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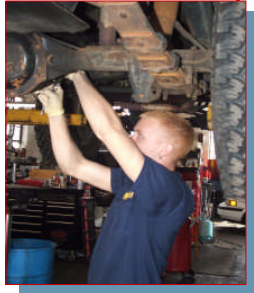
How It Works



About W.A.Y.

Work Appreciation for Youth (W.A.Y.) is a job readiness and life skills development program aimed at fostering self-esteem, a positive attitude about education and work, and helping youth take an active role in planning for their futures by acquiring a sense of control over their lives through self-sufficiency.

W.A.Y. offers academic assistance and utilizes structured learning to enable youth and young adults to explore a variety of work experiences on and off campus, including such vocations as retail, fast-food, clerical, automotive, operations, and landscaping.



W.A.Y. consists of a 5 Level System designed to provide participants with the information and “tools” necessary to become self-sufficient, productive members of society. W.A.Y. staff serve as positive role models providing instruction, assistance and guidance throughout the entire W.A.Y. process. Each participant’s achievements are rewarded with increasing autonomy and employment opportunities as they develop self-confidence, marketable skills, and an appreciation for academic and employment success.

Through their W.A.Y. experience, at-risk and aging-out youth obtain the knowledge and ability to make constructive life choices which are vital to their success and survival after leaving The Children’s Home.



W.A.Y. 5- Level System

- Level 1** - Basic living skills orientation within cottages
- Level 2** -Temporary assigned job tasks within cottages
- Pre-employment workshops/community service project
- Level 3** - On-campus employment with hourly wage
- Post-employment workshops
- 20-50% of earnings into savings account
- Level 4** - Off-Campus employment at minimum wage or higher
- 20-50% of earnings into savings account
- Level 5** - 3-5 year after-care and mentoring commitment post -discharge from TCH
- Matched savings plan up to \$500



Pre- and post-employment workshops and trainings attended regularly include such topics as:

- preparing job applications (written and online) and interviewing,
- proper attire, employee/employer relationships, and sexual harassment in the workplace,
- banking and budgeting,
- federal/state withholdings and tax preparation,
- applying for social services,
- and other knowledge bases needed for independence.

W.A.Y. participants also receive tutoring to assist with homework and research papers. In addition, W.A.Y. staff will advocate on the participant’s behalf with teachers and employers to address issues or concerns that arise. This ensures each youth is on target to meet their

Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and increases the likelihood of academic success and job retention.

Youth who wish to continue their education with post-secondary instruction are given tutorials on navigating through the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars websites. They also receive assistance with preparing college and other secondary education applications.

Aftercare

We are equally concerned with each participant’s ability to have much needed support post-discharge from The Children’s Home and the W.A.Y. program. To address many of those concerns, we developed



“**W.A.Y Scholarship**” (Level 5). Scholarship is essentially an aftercare and mentoring component that:

- champions their education goals,
- provides positive adult guidance, and
- reassurance that they can indeed “make it in the real world.”

Participants who choose to enroll in W.A.Y. Scholarship are given a 3-5 year commitment by a W.A.Y. counselor for support. As an added bonus, a “**matched savings**” plan is included that provides up to an additional \$500 to be used to reach their education goals.



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