

"The ache for home lives in all of us,
the safe place where we can go as we are
and not be questioned." *Maya Angelou*



Life Link Home

A Supportive Project by



To Empower Tomorrow's Adults with a Solid Foundation to Move Forward

"Children who are fortunate enough to grow up in safe home environment are better prepared for the future."

Angela Estes EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ROBINS' NEST INC.

For most, the word "home" conjures up images of lively dinnertime discussions, a warm bed, family celebrations and a continuous flow of advice and support.

Positive images like these can leave lasting impressions on children who are fortunate enough to grow up in a stable home, and may make it easier for them to step into adulthood.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO HAVEN'T?

THE PATH FROM FOSTER CARE TO ADULTHOOD CAN BE ROUGH

Foster children, many of whom have been in multiple placements, do not always have the same opportunities to follow in someone's footsteps. They haven't always had the support of a traditional family. Without a solid foundation and fond memories, many of these young people have only undesirable footprints to lead them into an uncertain future.



Of the 12,500 New Jersey youth in foster care, at least 300 "age out" of the foster-care system every year. Forced to leave the foster-care system at age 18, many become homeless and lack the necessary life-skills to fend for themselves. To make matters worse, emergency and permanent housing services in Gloucester and adjacent counties have been virtually non-existent, leaving these young people unsure how or where to begin to prepare for a positive future.



LIFE LINK HOME CREATES A CLEARER PATH

Life Link, an innovative new program by Robins' Nest, has been created to give young people the guidance and direction they need to take positive steps into adulthood.

"Desire, ask, believe, receive."

Stella Terrell Mann



Geared toward youth between ages 18 and 21, Life Link provides former foster children a safe place to live, and the added support of life-skills training, crisis intervention, counseling and guidance — all of which are instrumental to their transition to independence.

THROUGH LIFE LINK, YOUTH WILL BENEFIT FROM:

- ❖ Age-appropriate, non-intrusive supervision in a nurturing, homelike setting
- ❖ Security in knowing they can live in the Life Link Home until they are able to make it on their own
- ❖ Basic physical and mental health care
- ❖ Supportive staff to help young people realize their potential as they learn important life skills such as:



- ◆ Budgeting and money management
- ◆ Meal preparation
- ◆ Staying organized
- ◆ Setting and meeting goals
- ◆ Communicating well
- ◆ Solving problems
- ◆ Pursuing higher or vocational education
- ◆ Adapting to various social situations
- ◆ Assistance in securing meaningful employment
- ◆ Volunteer mentors, who will guide and support these young people long after they leave Life Link.

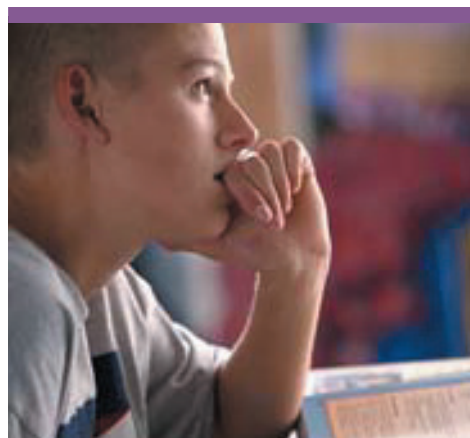


"A home is not a mere transient shelter; its essence lies in its permanence, in its capacity for accretion and solidification, in its quality of representing, in all its details, the personalities of the people who live it it." *H.L. Mencken*

Life Link empowers youth to make a positive start as they work toward becoming responsible adults in their community. Because there are no time limits, they can remain in the Life Link program until they feel confident and able to take care of themselves.

OUR MISSION AND COMMITMENT

The Robins' Nest mission is to insure the safety of children and enhance their well-being in a family setting. This is



accomplished through a wide array of quality community-based residential and in-home services, which encourage and empower children to become responsible members of their community.

The goal of Life Link is to offer young people the skills and self-confidence they need to thrive into adulthood. Providing invaluable structure, enrichment and support will help them become self-sufficient.



"Life is a voyage that's homeward bound."

Herman Melville

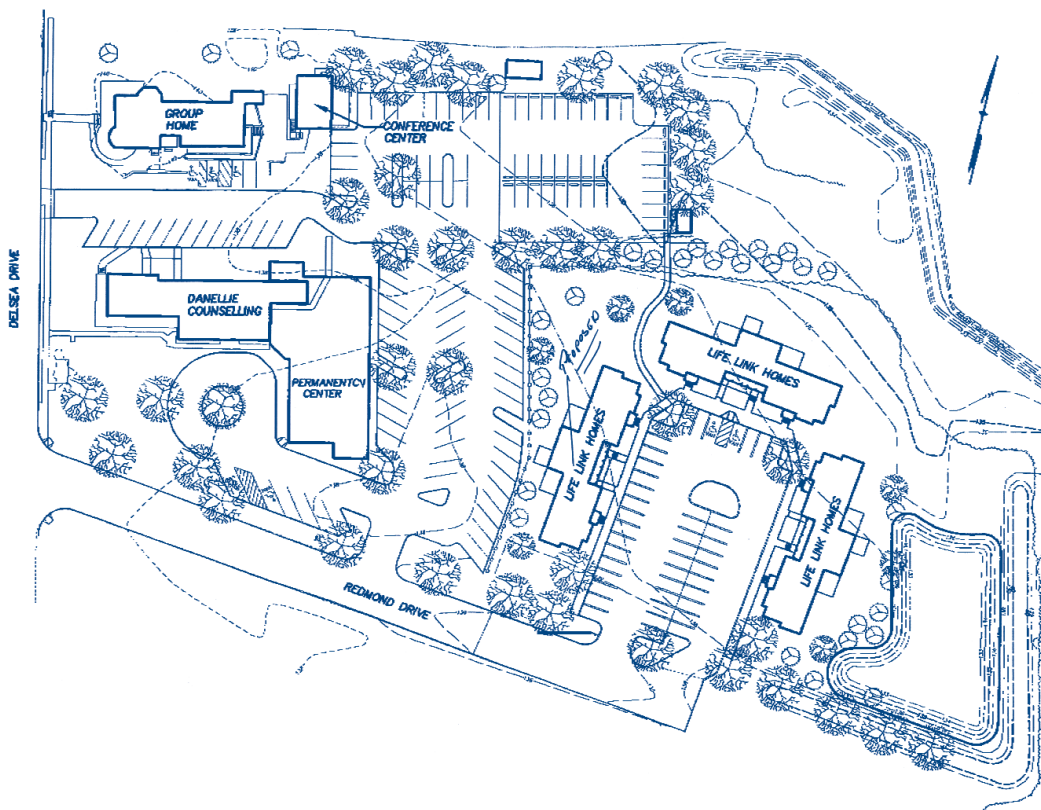
LIFE LINK HOME PROVIDES A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

Housing is a crucial component of the Life Link program. When foster children "age out" of the system, they often do not have the financial resources or the skills to secure meaningful employment to pay for medical care and safe housing.

Life Link is addressing that concern, and plans to construct a two-story residential apartment building large enough to accommodate 10 young persons. Each building will contain 10 efficiency apartments and consist of three wings — which include separate wings for male and female residents and a central apartment for a residential supervisor. All residents will share a living room, kitchen, dining room and laundry facilities.

Robins' Nest hopes to expand the Life Link program as more funding becomes available. With your support, Robins' Nest can forge ahead with plans to build additional facilities to accommodate up to 20 more children who have "aged out" of the foster-care system.

WON'T YOU HELP CREATE A PATH OF SUCCESS FOR TOMORROW'S ADULTS?





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