



Independent Living Program

PROGRAM BULLETIN August 2004

For the first time, the California Chafee Grant Program is available. The program gives up to \$5000 annually to foster youth and former foster youth to use for college courses or vocational school training. Talk to an ILP worker for more info or go to <http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.asp>. ILP caseworkers are available to assist youth with scholarship applications, FAFSA forms and accessing Chafee Grants. Congratulations to the youth who were awarded the \$400 ILP stipend for completing high school

In August, four ILP Aftercare youth will be participating in a study sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America. These young adults will be providing information about their experiences in foster care and offering feedback about the dependency system. Each participant will earn a stipend for their contributions.

Another round of ILP Experiential Groups wrap up on August 4th. Participants will finish up a busy six weeks during which they will have visited Wittmeier Auto Center, learned about renting housing from Rob Koop of Sheraton Real Estate Management, received employment tips from Frank Condon of Speedy Burrito, toured one of Butte County's Employment Centers, and practiced shopping for groceries while having fun and earning money. ILP thanks the members of our community who took the time to assist ILP with groups. Watch for announcements about ILP groups in Oroville in the coming months.

Many Aftercare youth do not have a phone number at which they can be reached on a consistent basis. ILP is providing cell phones with calling cards to some Aftercare youth in order to improve each aftercare youth's ability to connect with services and employers. ILP has identified specific phones that can serve this function. **Anyone who upgrades to a different cell phone can donate their old phone to ILP if it falls into the Nokia 5160 Series (i.e. 5165, 5160i. etc) or Nokia 1260 or 2260 Series. Any associated cell phone chargers will also be gratefully accepted.**

ILP's START Program assists eligible former foster youth with housing costs while the individual completes a vocational or educational goal. For more than two years START has served former foster youth around Butte County. The program's success led to efforts to expand after care housing opportunities. Last Fall ILP began work on a housing proposal to the City of Chico. The proposed program would combine ILP's START Program and elements of Chico's Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program. The proposal was approved in May. TBRA II is now up and running! ILP is excited to offer expanded housing assistance to Aftercare youth. For info contact Tami Thompson at 893-2316 ext. 212 or 1-888-893-4011.

ATTENTION ILP YOUTH AND YOUTH ADVOCATES! Butte County's California Youth Connection chapter wants you! You are invited to help change the foster care system. You can be a part of an organization that can change your life as well as the lives of others. CYC is made up of foster youth and adult supporters just like you. Butte County CYC meets twice monthly at Youth and Family Programs in Chico. Call 893-2316 ext. 261 to hear current Butte County CYC chapter information or leave a message. *CYC's continued success will be dependent on a strong team of adult supporters-CYC needs additional adult supporters. Join the fun!* Visit CYC's website at www.calyouthconn.org.

Butte College ILSP classes will resume on August 18th. Classes are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm at 2491 Carmichael Dr., Ste. 300 in Chico. Call Kathy Lovelace at 897-6235 to learn more.

Butte County Transitional Housing Placement Programs or THPP's are some of the most active and varied in the state. Remi Vista, Youth and Family and Youth For Change each offer unique programs. ILP encourages youth, care providers, and social workers to become familiar with each. Frequently Asked Questions sheets for each program are available.

All teens 16 and up who are in placement are entitled to ILP services*. If you know of an unreferral teen aged sixteen or up who lives in a foster home or a group home please contact ILP. ILP serves teens placed from other counties as well as Butte County teens. Former foster youth aged 16 to 21, who were in placement at 16 or older, can call Butte County ILP for support in the areas of employment, housing, connecting with community resources and more. ILP served a program record 55 aftercare youth from 4/1/04 to 6/30/04. Call ILP Aftercare at 893-2316 ext. 257 or 1-888-893-4011. *Contact ILP to determine eligibility.

