

Independent Living Program Activity Card

Category: RELATIONSHIPS

Activity: Complete a Program Vignette

Description: The Orangewood Foundation rejoices with each and every participant as they move on to success. Your success story is an inspiration to us all! Please see the activity instructions and sample vignette for more information. Turn in a typed copy of your story with your name and date along with this activity card.

You may earn \$8.00 ILP dollars for completing this assignment.

Total Dollars Earned:

<p>\$</p> <p>(ILP Use Only)</p>
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Notes:

Date: _____

_____ Youth Signature	_____ Date of Birth
_____ Print Name (Youth)	_____ Group Home (If Applicable)

<p>Receipt</p> <p>(ILP Use Only)</p>
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Complete a Program Vignette

We Want Your Story!

Are you willing to share your personal testimony with others? The Orangewood Foundation is looking for personal stories to understand how our programs may have helped you.

If you have a story about how you experienced success, support, greater knowledge, etc. as a result of participating in one of our programs, we will give you ILP dollars for your submission.

If you participated in ILP, resided in Rising Tide, received a scholarship through the Children's Trust Fund/Scholarships and Grants, had a YSS, visited the ORC, etc. we would like to know your experience. We look forward to hearing from you!

The following are questions that may help you write your story. Please don't feel obligated to answer these questions. Share what you feel comfortable with. These questions are provided for your convenience:

- What was your home-life like?
- What was your experience in the foster care system?
- How did the program help you?
- How did the staff help you?
- What did you learn?
- What success have you experienced as a result of participating in the program?
- What advice would you give other foster youth?

Sample Vignette:

I came from a family of seventeen sisters and brothers, in which the majority of us were and are in foster care. I would like to talk about the help that is out there for foster children. Being a product of foster care, I was fortunate to discover the Independent Living Program which is designed to assist current/former foster youth. My ILS helped me get a job. They have been very understanding, helpful and comforting to me as the changes occurred in my life. Thank you ILP!

Because of the ILP workshops and support I got from the ILP Coordinators, I now feel that I am very independent. I know how to save money and I purchased a car and recently moved into my own apartment. It feels good to be able to spend money on your little sister who looks up to you.

What I like most about the staff at the Orangewood Foundation is they really care and understand foster children. Additionally, they take time to get to know them. If I am in need of school books, clothes, or a job, Orangewood Foundation has what a foster child needs as far as links to other programs that will help me with these things.

The point is I am very grateful that I was referred to Orangewood Foundation because they have given me the will to proceed with my dreams and goals of going to school to be a psychologist. In closing, I would like to state what someone once told me. "Never stop dreaming, because when you do, you settle for less."