

VISTA MARIA

TRANSITIONS: A Rite of Passage

VISTA MARIA'S TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

is a Supervised Independent Living program that operates in a group home setting on campus. An emphasis is placed on the practical application of self-management and functional independence.

Transitions was created for adolescents between the ages of 16–19 with the goal to live independently; with little or no functioning support system outside of the child welfare, or juvenile justice system and in circumstances when returning home or family reunification is not an option.

Transitions is the in-between step; the passage from residential treatment to the community. It is designed to help adolescents successfully reintegrate into community independence.

“This program is working for me! I’ve been in placement for 2 years and the fact that I can gain my independence is working for me.”
— Transitions resident

The program team utilizes a strength-based, solution-focused transition to independence process (TIP) model to facilitate the following goals:

- 1) **Credit Recovery and/or successful High School completion**
- 2) **Independent Living Skills**
- 3) **First time employment (part-time/summer)**
- 4) **Vocational training and financial management**

Transitions provides in-community opportunities for them to increase their independent thinking and living skills and practice these newly acquired skills before their placement in an unsupervised independent community. The program also includes substance use/abuse education and treatment through therapeutic support.

“I finally can have some independence. I never thought that being able to walk around campus without staff would be so fulfilling.” — Transitions Resident

Transitions program services include:

treatment services, employment opportunities, educational enhancement classes, a case manager to support in life planning and links to other services. Additional resources offered are independent living training and classes, vocational testing and training, higher education assessment, spiritual support and counseling, aftercare outreach and support, volunteer mentors and coordination to other community-based resources. When appropriate, efforts are made to sustain family affiliations, utilizing family finders to assist youth with identifying healthy family dynamics and interactions. Transitions staff is available on a 24/7 basis with a ratio that is commensurate with the program needs.

This confirms that the program is a necessary, engaging and impactful journey; a celebratory step towards independence—a rite of passage.



AGE OF ADOLESCENTS IN PROGRAM: 16-19 YEARS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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KEY SERVICES INCLUDE: *Employment opportunities, Case management support, Independent Living Training, Volunteer Mentors and Counseling*



CREDIT RECOVERY
HS COMPLETION



INDEPENDENT
LIVING SKILLS



FIRST TIME
EMPLOYMENT
(PART-TIME/
SUMMER)



VOCATIONAL
TRAINING



FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT AND
INDEPENDANCE