



Occupations, Inc.

Foster Care Services

On April 30, 2010, Occupations, Inc. added Foster Care to our array of community services. Committed to the shared values and rich traditions of McQuade Children's Services, we have continued to provide outstanding casework, therapies, psychopharmacology, social and recreational opportunities as well as independent living skills to the youth who live in our houses. We operate two types of Foster Care Services; one is called Emergency Group Residence and the other a Group Home.

EMERGENCY GROUP RESIDENCE SERVICES

The Emergency Group Residence, located in Newburgh, NY, is also referred to as a diagnostic shelter. We offer an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization and look to stabilize the child/youth in the least restrictive setting possible while maintaining many of the youth's normal routines. We work with youth who are experiencing a traumatic event and/or behavioral and emotional challenges. Our treatment team develops and implements a plan that supports the youth's development while addressing their treatment and service needs. Whenever possible, the youth will continue to attend school. When this is not possible the school will send a tutor to ensure that the youth's educational needs are met during this time of crisis.

The foster care services have dedicated and educated staff who provide the needed care and mentoring. Our social workers, nurse and psychiatrist provide the essential clinical services need by these youth at this time of crisis. With open hearts and the willingness to do "whatever it takes," they help pave the way to success for these youth. Our program staff engage the youth in multiple and varied activities, whether it is playing a video game, going to movies, doing chores, helping with homework or just 'hanging around', as many of the youth we work with cannot tolerate meetings in the office to talk about "problems." It is often our direct support staff who learn the most about the youth and spend the most time with them. Their contributions to our clinical team are enormous. Through our relationships we seek to establish mutual respect and trust with the youth and hope to help them to find their hopes and dreams again.

Our social workers partner with the youth, his or her family, and other important people in their lives to create a plan that will help the young person to get back home as soon as possible. Sadly, there are times when the youth has no place to go for multiple reasons. Most often, they do not have adults who can care for them at this particular time. Some of these youth can transition to our' group homes or to other foster care programs. All plans are highly individualized and carefully reviewed by our clinical team that is lead by our Children and Adolescent Medical Director, Dr. Mridula Kamthan.



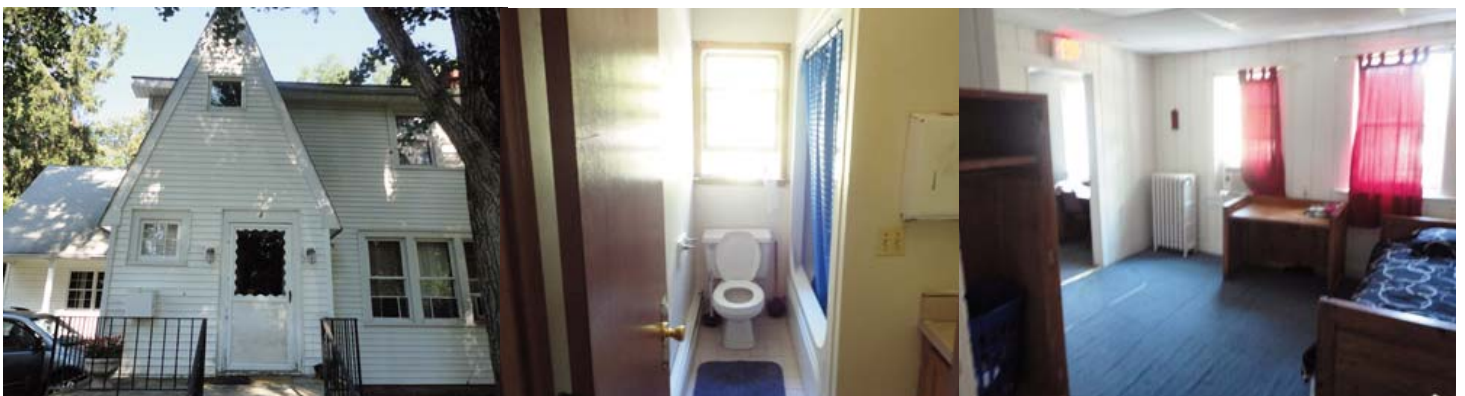
Above is the Girls' Home in Cornwall

GROUP HOME SERVICES

A Group Home is a home with trained staff providing guidance and support. It is a home away from home for adolescents who cannot live with their families. The youth who live in a group home come from varied backgrounds and experiences. The most common theme is that they didn't have families that are able to care for them at this time. The reasons why are many, but the basic needs are always the same. Each youth needs to feel loved, important, and hopeful so they can work towards and achieve their dreams. The key to success is their belief that, they too, can have a positive future. We strive to ensure each child has the best opportunity to "live a normal life" in an "abnormal" situation. They go to school in the community, work, play, and participate in events in their current "home towns", like most teenagers do. Their families and other people important in their lives are encouraged to actively participate in every possible way.

Occupations, Inc operates two group homes; one in Cornwall for girls and one in Washingtonville designated for boys. Both group homes are large, regular houses as they offer a home for up to 10 youth and employ approximately 12 staff. The program staff, as in the diagnostic shelter, provide clinical services, a safe environment, and supervision to support the youth's growth and development. There is a social worker and a site supervisor as well as a nurse, psychiatrist and direct support staff. The desired outcomes for the older youth are to learn independent living/self-sufficiency skills but most of all to support the youth to create a vision of a positive future. The primary goal for the younger adolescents is family reunification with the youth's biological family, extended relatives or another natural support in the community. We know we have done our work well when the young person starts to dream again, has positive life experiences, graduates from high school, gains work experience, and is able to move home, whether with family, extended family or a home of his or her own.

Below is the Boys' Home in Washingtonville



Like every other teenager in America, for our youth their houses are the focal point for their daily lives. Unfortunately, these properties spent many years neglected due to lack of funding for repairs and upkeep. The work needed to make the houses into HOMES is great and varied and is being undertaken by our Gala Committee and our 2011 Honoree RJ Smith.