



---

WALKING WITH YOUTH IN CRISIS  
TOWARD HOPE, HELP, AND HEALING

[www.immersearkansas.org](http://www.immersearkansas.org)



# WHO WE ARE



## WHO WE ARE

### Why We Exist

To walk with youth and families toward hope, help, and healing.



## WHO WE ARE

### Why We Exist

To walk with youth and families toward hope, help, and healing.

### What We Do

Fill child welfare system gaps.



## WHO WE ARE

### Why We Exist

To walk with youth and families toward hope, help, and healing.

### What We Do

Fill child welfare system gaps.

### How We Behave

Hearts motivated by worship,  
a work-ethic that is scrappy, and  
a commitment to stick with the youth  
we serve.



**Eric Gilmore**  
*Executive Director*



**Jack Ciak**  
*Director of Finance*



**Leah Williams**  
*Director of Programs*



**Tabitha Houk**  
*Trauma Specialist*



**Kelly Austin**  
*Street Outreach Coach*



**Kaysi Roussel**  
*Street Outreach Coach*



**Angela Hightower**  
*Transitional Coach*



**Sydney Gambill**  
*Advancement  
Coordinator*



**Deidre Gray**  
*Transitional Coach*



**Deborah Lawson**  
*Staff Accountant*



**Sarah Smith**  
*Operations Manager*



**Ed Phillips**  
*Youth Support Specialist*



**Jake Ritter**  
*Overcomer Central Director*



**Nick Nettles**  
*Transitional Coach*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jeff Smith, President**

*Smith Family Funeral Homes, CEO*

**Carol Spenst, Secretary**

*Chick-Fil-A, Owner*

**Bo Boschetti, Treasurer**

*Bear State Financial, Credit Analyst*

**Angela Aduddell**

*Youth Advocate*

**Tanner Mezel**

*DSG Consulting, Partner*

**Wade Radke**

*Galley Support Innovations, Owner*

**Phil Glover**

*Crye-Leike Realtors, Executive Broker  
Success Real Estate School, Director*

**Dan Williams**

*Garver, President and CEO*

# Realities of Youth in Crisis

**300**

Roughly 300 high school students in Pulaski County were reported as homeless last year.

**3-10x**

Youth who have been in foster care are 3-10 times more likely to experience homelessness.

**137**

Last year, 137 calls were made in Arkansas reporting human trafficking, with nearly half of cases being minors.

**200**

In Arkansas, over 200 youth age out of foster care each year.

# Realities of Foster Care

**5000**

Currently, over 5,000 children are in foster care in Arkansas.

**2x**

Child welfare workers' case loads are more than 2 times the national average.

**8**

Youth in Arkansas experience an average of more than 8 moves each year, which is roughly twice the national average.

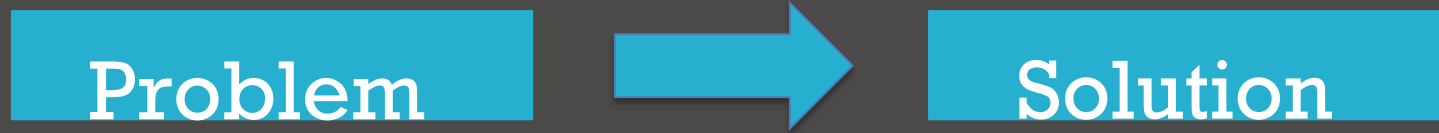
How you define the problem is how you will determine the solution

**Problem**



**Solution**

How you define the problem is how you will determine the solution



Broken relationships

How you define the problem is how you will determine the solution

**Problem**



**Solution**

**[WITH]**

Broken relationships

Connect — 

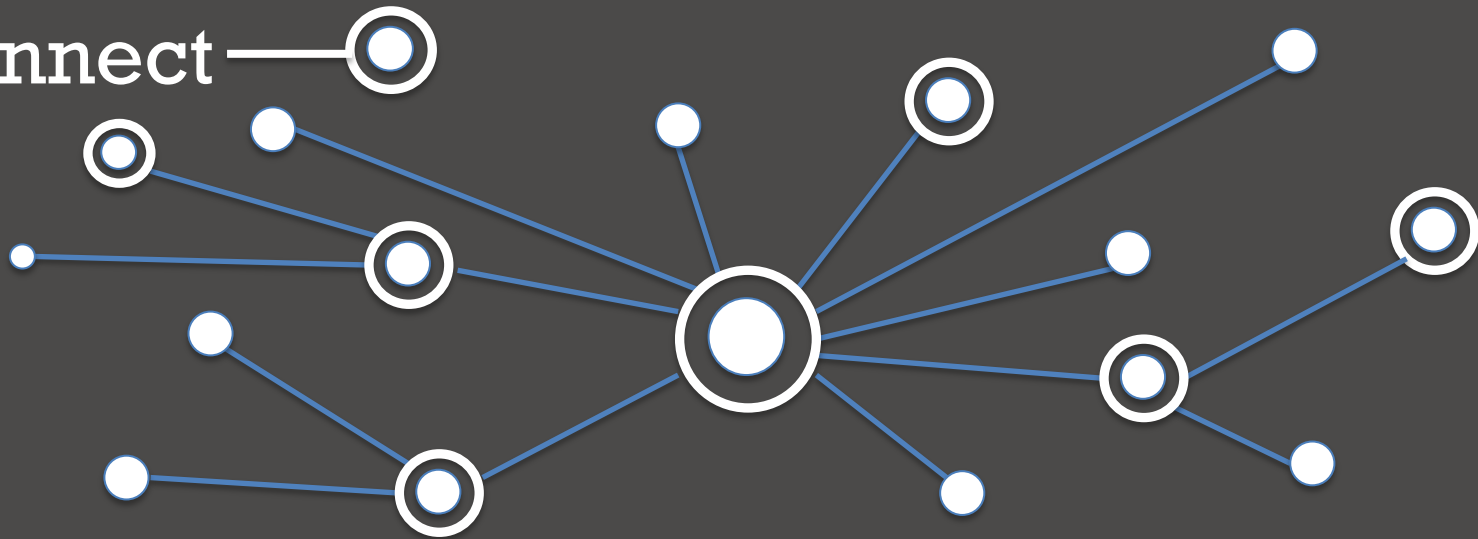


[WITH]

Our only goal- a lasting relationship

Remain connected through the ups and  
downs.

Connect



Cultivate positive connections to existing resources and sustainable networks of support.

Connect 



Connect — 

  
Church &  
Community  
Involvement



Connect — 



Church &  
Community  
Involvement



Basic  
Resources



Connect — 



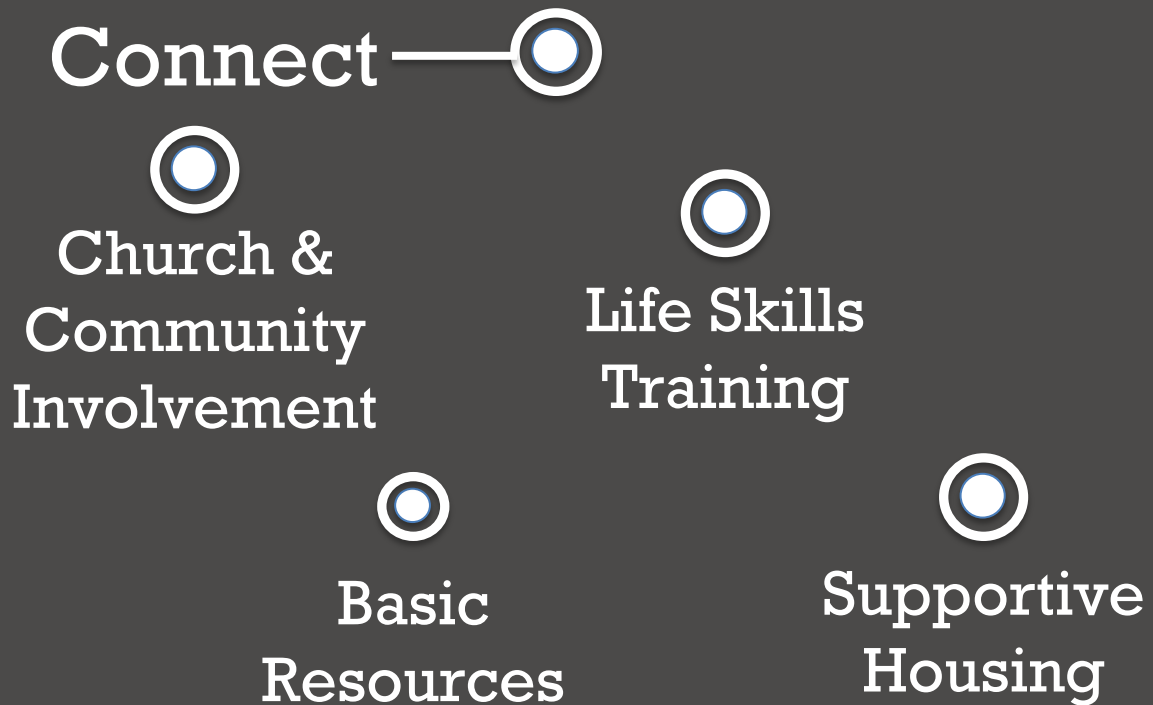
Church &  
Community  
Involvement

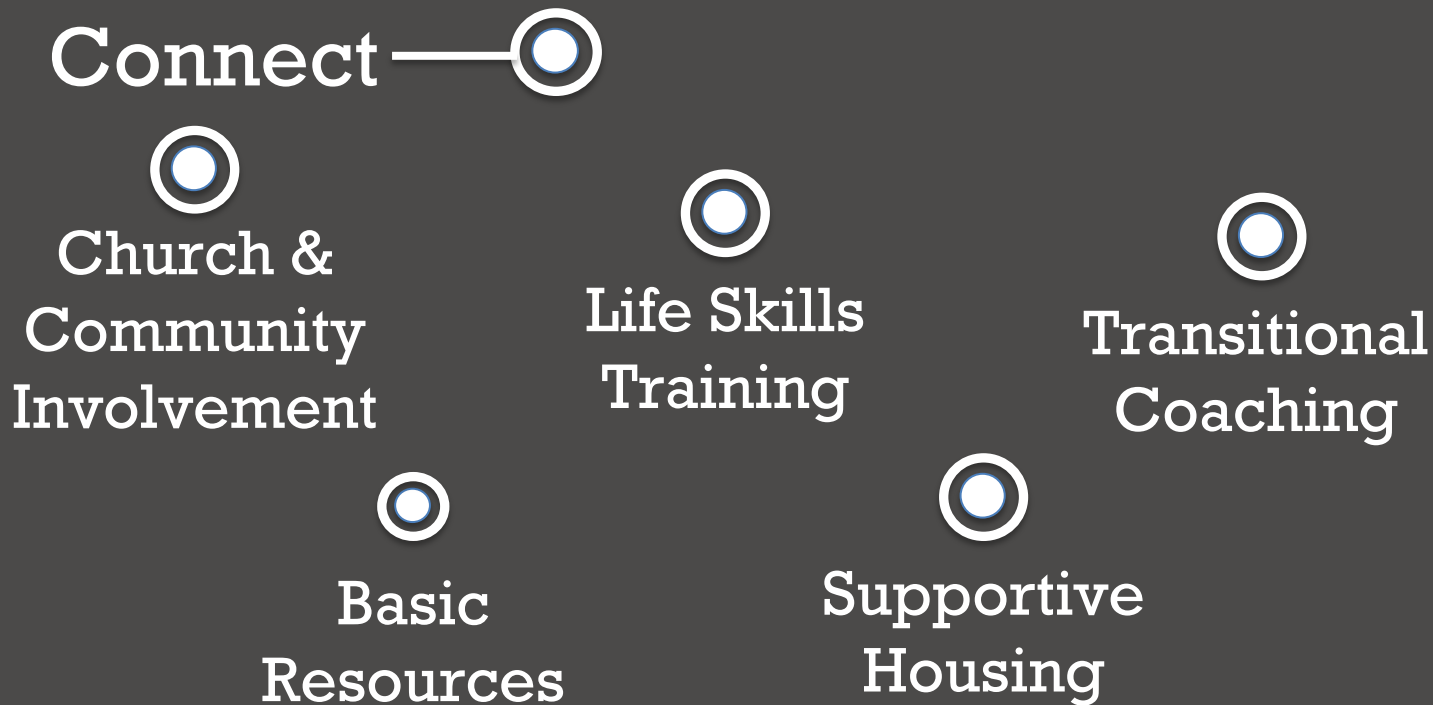


Life Skills  
Training

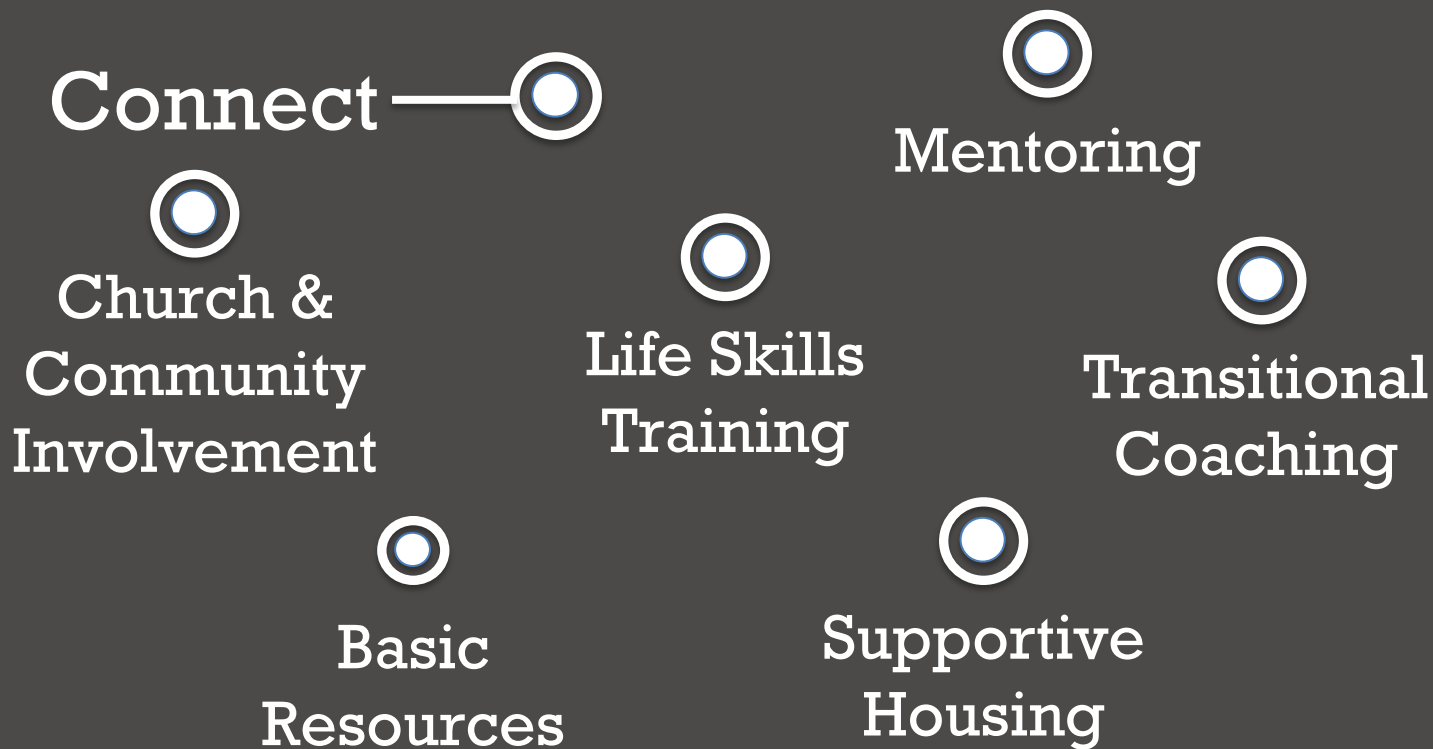


Basic  
Resources













# TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

## What is it?

Supportive housing for up to 20 youth ages 16-22 who are aging out of foster care, runaway or homeless, or victims of human trafficking or sexual exploitation

### RESOURCES

Supportive Housing

Basic Supports

Connections

Transitional Coaching

Social Immersion

# TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

## Supportive Housing

A Safe Place to Stay-

Each house hosts up to 3 youth as well as a resident assistant who lives onsite to provide additional support.



# TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

## Transitional Coaching

Someone to Guide You-

Youth are paired with a Transitional Coach who partners with the youth to make tangible steps toward self-sufficiency.



# Street Outreach/ Overcomer Central

- Street Outreach Coaches go out to look for homeless young adults in LR metro, and provide them with services and resources
- Overcomer Central Drop in Center located at 5300 Asher Avenue.

## Services:

- Laundry
- Computer Lab
- Games (Ping-Pong, Xbox, Foosball, Pool Table, etc)
- Daily lunch/dinner provided
- Transitional Coaching with Street Outreach Workers
- Referrals to vital services in community (SNAP, Medicaid, schooling, low-income housing, etc)
- Showers
- Hygiene and food bags readily available



THANK YOU!

Email: [volunteer@immersearkansas.org](mailto:volunteer@immersearkansas.org)

Call: (501) 404-9890

[www.immersearkansas.org](http://www.immersearkansas.org)

