



Ward Home, Inc.
Serving our at risk foster youth since the early 1900s

by **GABRIELLA VACCARO**



Tara (left) the cooking instructor and Nykeah (right), a foster youth during an enrichment program.



Bill Wolfe, executive director, Ward Home, Inc. and Robert Fragasso

In 1905, after Robert B. Ward, then the president of the most successful bread company in the United States passed away, his passion for children inspired his family to donate their home to the United Methodist Church Union to be used as an orphanage. For over 100 years, Ward Home, Inc. with its strong roots, is now an independent, nonprofit social service agency serving our community's most at-risk youth.

Ward Home serves as a home for at-risk foster youth who are in need of a stable environment. They have two main programs that help Pittsburgh-area foster youth become independent and show their best selves.

The Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Program serves youth ages 16-21 who grew up in the foster care system. The foster youth in the SIL Program live in apartment-style housing with 24-hour supervision. This program teaches many valuable life skills, centered around living a healthy independent life through self-discipline. Ward Home emphasizes "developing social and life skills, obtaining and maintaining employment and/or volunteer work, completing an education plan, staying safe, and developing healthy relationships." The foster youth have the



Foster youth , Romell enjoying time with a dog from Therapets.



Braijon (left) and Di'Angelo (right) celebrating their first day of work and school, respectively.

opportunity to participate in enhanced creative and academic programming in order to further prepare them for living a successful independent life. Ward Home's foster youth are offered to participate in enrichment opportunities, such as ceramics, jewelry making, and glass blowing workshops. The foster youth also receive a monthly stipend to purchase groceries and must budget their money to create meal plans in order to learn how to best stretch their dollars. The SIL Program served seventy-six youth in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

In addition to the SIL Program, Ward Home also offers the **My Best Self Program**. This program is open to all foster youth in Allegheny County between the ages of 12 and 21. Ward Home provides them with access to hair care services and products. They also have the chance to

participate in social skills workshops in order to showcase and put forth the best version of themselves. In the 2016-17 fiscal year, the My Best Self program helped sixty-two foster youths.

These two programs offer at-risk foster youth in the Greater-Pittsburgh area unique and beneficial programming that will help them develop healthy and independent lifestyles. Fragasso Financial Advisors is proud to support Ward Home, and we encourage you to help this great mission.

If you would like get involved with Ward Home, please visit their website: <http://wardhome.org/>.

Get connected! @WardHomeInc    

138*

FOSTER YOUTH

104 FEMALES

34 MALES

76*

in the SUPERVISED
INDEPENDENT LIVING
(SIL) PROGRAM

62*

in my BEST SELF
PROGRAM

*[http://wardhome.org/media-center/~Ward Home Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2016-2017 \(PDF\)](http://wardhome.org/media-center/~Ward%20Home%20Annual%20Report--Fiscal%20Year%202016-2017%20(PDF)) page 3

