



Children's Home Association of Illinois

2130 Knoxville Ave.
Peoria, IL 61603
(309) 685-1047
CHAIL.org

Impact Central Illinois Grant Update: Transforming Lives Through Youth Farm Cottage Furniture

July 25, 2023

Dear Impact Central Illinois Board:

We hope this letter finds you in high spirits. We are thrilled to provide an update on the impact your generous grant had on the lives of the youth at our Youth Farm cottages. Your support in June 2020, which amounted to \$130,000, enabled us to purchase essential indestructible bedroom furniture including desks, chairs, beds, and dressers.

The new furniture has improved the physical environment of the cottages and provided a sense of stability, comfort, and security for children and youth. It has created a nurturing space where they can focus on their studies, find solace, and dream big.

We have included a few photographs that capture one of our recently renovated cottages with the furniture purchased in 2020. These images reflect the positive changes that have taken place and highlight the significance of your continued support.



Additionally, we would like to share two heartwarming stories that exemplify how the furniture has positively affected the young people in our care, even for just a couple nights.

“Ryan” was a 17-year-old runaway bouncing around homes of relatives and shelters, lost in Chicago for months at a time. He was eventually located by DCFS who referred Ryan into our care at Youth Farm. Through consistent support and a nurturing environment, started showing academic progress, increased self-esteem, and demonstrated a newfound sense of hope and ambition for a brighter future, laying a strong foundation for their successful reintegration into society. For the first time in Ryan’s life, he has stability, routine, and a safe place to call “home,” even temporarily.



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"Emily," a 15-year-old girl became involved with our Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services program after being trafficked from California to Chicago to Peoria, and needed a place to sleep and be cared for while we contacted her mother, aunt, and grandmother and arranged to meet them in Chicago to return her to their care. Emily arrived at Youth Farm and had experienced significant instability and hardship prior to her arrival. The provision of a cozy bed, a functional desk, and a dresser has allowed Emily to create her own personal sanctuary, even for a short time, fostering a sense of safety and tranquility. We are incredibly proud of our staff's ability to quickly arrange a safe space to help to regulate a scared and lonely teenage girl and remove her from a very dangerous situation.



Your support provides a safe and comfortable living environment and contributes to the overall development and well-being of the youth in our care. By empowering them with a space of their own, you have given them the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress and the impact your contributions are making in the lives of these remarkable young individuals.

Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for being an invaluable partner in transforming the lives of youth in Central Illinois.

With appreciation,

Scurry Miller
President and CEO
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