

# *Meet the children of Peacock Acres*

*Learn more about the four residential programs we offer...*



*Meet Juan*



*Meet Lily*



*Meet Jasmine*



*Meet Sam*



**Peacock Acres, Inc.**

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**PEACOCK ACRES**

SERVING THE FOSTER YOUTH OF MONTEREY COUNTY

# Peacock Acres...

*Serving the Foster Youth of Monterey County since 1983*

## *A Bit of Philosophy.....*

Peacock Acres' Founders Nancy and Gene Edgin and son, Ernest Howard, learned from years of experience that children's lives are positively impacted using an attachment-promoting family model. Restraint is not permitted in any Peacock Acres program.

Problems are viewed as challenges faced by the family as a team. Everyone knows that mistakes will be made and lessons will be learned but each child receives unconditional acceptance and support.

Today more than 50 children, teens and emancipated foster youth are served by Peacock Acres. With our staff of trained and dedicated personnel, the same philosophy of respect and support permeates our four unique residential programs.

*Peacock Acres opened its doors in 1983 as a foster placement complete with farm animals and plenty of room to run and play.*



*Peacock Acres is a Non-Profit Organization 501(c)3.  
All donations are tax deductible.*

# Peacock Acres...

*Four residential programs based on age and level of care*

## *Therapeutic Group Homes for boys*

Peacock Acres' RCL-10 Therapeutic Group Homes are licensed by the State of California and accredited by The California Alliance of Children and Family Services to provide residential care and a therapeutic environment for boys, ages 7 to 17. Children may be referred by Child Protective Services or any arm of California's Department of Family and Children's Services.

## *Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) for boys and girls*

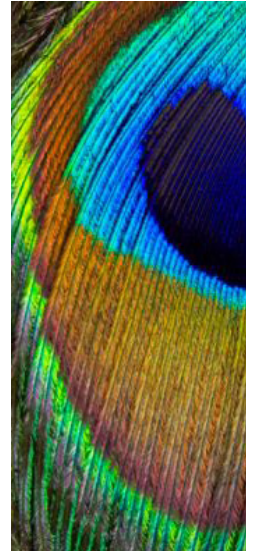
Designed for foster teens, ages 16-18, who are ready to practice their independent living skills with less direct supervision. Teens (same sex) live in a three or four bedroom home in a residential neighborhood. A supervisor lives in the home and promotes independent living skills. High school completion is advised but alternative educational plans are permitted. Parenting teens are accepted into this program.

## *Incarceration to Success (I2S) for boys*

Started as a pilot program in 2004, the I2S program provides transitional living services for probation youth, ages 16 to 19, who are completing their period of incarceration in Monterey County's Youth Center in Salinas, CA.

## *Peacock Acres Transitional Housing (PATH) for young adults (THP-Plus of Monterey County)*

A new statewide California program for emancipated foster youth, ages 18 to 24, THP-Plus offers qualified youth up to 24 months of subsidy in a supported environment while they pursue their formalized Transitional Independent Living Plan (T.I.L.P.)



The name "Peacock Acres" originated when one single male peacock, full of long colorful fanning feathers, unexpectedly walked up the driveway to the group home. The kids decided that no one would attempt to run him off, or keep him in a pen. The peacock became a respected symbol of beauty and confidence as he routinely strutted around the property. The kids named him "Paul." Soon it was decided that Paul needed a female companion and so, as the seasons passed, he and his new mate began populating the group home with other generations of peacocks. As of last count Peacock Acres is home to over 50 peacocks.

# Meet Juan...



*10-year old Juan is a member of our Group Home family*

Two years ago he and his younger brothers were living with their mom. Extreme domestic violence was common in the home. One night there was a stabbing and when the police came Juan was covered in blood. Soon he began having nightmares, trouble in school and wandering the streets. His mom used harsh physical punishment to try and correct Juan's "crazy" behaviors. When neighbors began calling CPS, Juan's life started to change.

Juan was eventually removed from his mother's care and placed in a foster home where his behaviors (lying, stealing, temper tantrums, threatening others and failing in school) demonstrated a need for a higher level of care in a therapeutic environment. Juan was referred to Peacock Acres Group Homes.

## *Group Home Placement*

- Trained staff supervise children 24 hours a day except when they are in school or another approved location.
- Each home has six boys and a live-in houseparent(s)
- Organized sports
- Swimming
- Skateboarding
- Hiking
- Cultural enrichment activities
- All residents attend public schools

*Peacock Acres Group Homes are located in a rural setting in Monterey County, California.*

# Meet Lily...

*17 year-old Lily is a member of our THPP Family*

When her mom was incarcerated five-years ago Lily was placed with a large foster care family. Things went well for Lily until suddenly her behaviors began to disrupt the household. Her foster mom reported late night phone calls, lying, schoolwork deteriorating and sneaking out to "party" with friends. And when she came home



smelling like alcohol, that was the last straw! Her foster parents immediately gave a seven-day notice; Lily must be moved. Fortunately, Lily is eligible for Peacock Acres' THPP where her teenage needs can be met.

The key issue in determining a youth's readiness to enter the Peacock Acres THPP is their motivation and level of maturity. Because Lily showed an

investment in her future she will be guided along the path of independent living, focusing on areas such as completing high school, planning for college and/or an appropriate employment plan. She will learn to take direction from trusted adults and receive assistance in cooking, shopping, sharing household chores and budgeting money.

## *Transitional Housing Placement Program*

- Youth share fully furnished houses in residential neighborhoods
- Properties are selected for their safety and proximity to schools and bus transportation
- Each youth has their own room
- A same-sex manager lives on site
- Youth are permitted some carefully constructed unsupervised time which may be increased as trust and good decision making are established
- Help in attaining a California Drivers License
- Youth may be employed while in THPP but education is of a higher priority
- All THPP youth must attend Monterey County's bi-monthly Independent Living Program

*All THPP residences are located in residential neighborhoods in Monterey County, California.*

# Meet Sam...

*17 year-old Sam is contributing to the success of our I2S Family*

Sam has been in foster care since he was five years old. With his extended family's gang affiliation it was no surprise that Sam was in and out of Juvenile Hall from the time he was twelve. At 16 Sam was convicted of auto theft and sentenced to one year's incarceration at the Youth Center in Salinas, CA.

While incarcerated, Sam displayed a high degree of cooperation, worked hard in the onsite school and seemed to be wanting something better out of life. As Sam's release date drew nearer his case manager from the Youth Center began working on his post-incarceration plan. Everyone knew if Sam were to be returned home, he would likely re-offend. Sam was referred to Peacock Acres' Incarceration to Success (I2S) residential program to keep him going in the right direction.



## *Incarceration to Success*

- I2S provides 24-hour residential and rehabilitation services in a highly structured program that includes school, work and community service
- Youth live in a supervised residence with a house manager and clearly stated rules
- Youth must obey their "probation terms"
- Youth are "graded" daily on attitude and respect for self and others
- Youth are provided with mental health counseling if required
- Youth learn anger management skills
- Youth may complete high school or GED
- Appropriate employment is encouraged and career paths are explored
- Positive role modeling and integration back into the community
- Sobriety is required and I2S youth may be drug or alcohol tested at any time
- The Peacock Acres I2S Program currently has a success rate of 70%

*I2S youth live in residential neighborhoods in Monterey County, California.*

# Meet Jasmine...

*She's on the road to success with Peacock Acres' THP-Plus*

Jasmine was placed into foster care after her mom's death when she was nine. She has lived with five different foster families but none of them became a permanent connection. Jasmine emancipated from California's Foster Care System when she turned eighteen. Having no real family to turn to, she was on her own. Jasmine had a plan for her future; she wanted to be an actress and a singer so she took all her belongings and hitchhiked to Monterey, planning to earn money as a street performer as she had seen other kids doing when she'd visited there with her foster family. The plan didn't work out and Jasmine found herself living on the streets, contemplating other ways she might survive.



Jasmine called her old social worker who told her about a new program in California designed to help emancipated young adults like herself. Jasmine was accepted into Peacock Acres Transitional Housing (PATH-Plus/THP-Plus of Monterey County) and moved into a fully furnished girl's dormitory. Currently, Jasmine receives support as she follows her personally created Transitional Independent Living Plan (T.I.L.P.). As she progresses, Jasmine may move into her own furnished apartment and remain there when she exits the program as a financially independent adult.

## *Peacock Acres Transitional Housing (PATH-Plus/THP-Plus of Monterey County)*

- Up to 24 months of subsidy for emancipated foster youth 18 - 24
- Scattered site housing
- Employment opportunities
- Educational support
- Scholarships and grants
- Career coaching
- Money management skills
- Social skills
- Cooking, shopping, nutrition, stress reduction and life management skills
- Qualified parents are welcome

*We are pleased to report that Peacock Acres PATH-Plus received "the highest level of satisfaction of any program" according to the California Statewide Executive Summary on THP-Plus published in September 2008.*

***We can't do it without you.***

Peacock Acres is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

We are proud to provide leadership and care for our foster youth. Our mission is made possible by the gracious support of individuals and organizations in our community. Contributions are gratefully appreciated and used wisely.

For more information please visit our website: [www.peacockacres.org](http://www.peacockacres.org)



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