



What is JOY?

Joining Our Youth is a non-profit organization of volunteers focused on improving the quality of life for young people in our community who are aging out of foster care and other at-risk youth referred by local social service agencies. Our goal is to support and encourage them as they transition into their new roles as independent adults.

What services does JOY provide for these young people?

- Trendy Threads is a stylish shop that provides free clothing and accessories so they can be dressed appropriately for school, work, and interviews.
- Housekeeping Starter Kits are given to those who are moving ahead with their lives to new and independent housing. These 52-piece kits contain essentials for bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, cleaning supplies, and tools. The kit provides all the essentials from a shower curtain to a pizza cutter.
- Bus passes and fully-accessorized bicycles are given to provide them with the ability they need to get from home to school, work, and extracurricular activities.
- JOY's "Key to Success" program helps qualified young people who need financial assistance for driver license classes and to obtain both learning permits and driver licenses.
- Tutoring service is available for qualified students who are studying for their GED, or working toward a high school diploma, or an associate or college degree.

How can you make a positive difference in these young lives?

- Become a member of JOY. Your financial support enables us to provide these programs to the young people who are moving ahead to new lives. Membership also includes a newsletter that provides updates and information about our activities and those we serve.
- Help plan youthful events that celebrate holidays, graduations, and other occasions during the year.
- Contribute appropriate, gently used, youthful clothing to Trendy Threads. Gift cards from Target, Wal-Mart, JC Penny, TJ Max, Foot Locker, Champs, and Foot Locker are especially helpful for JOY to purchase specific inventory.
- Be available to work at Trendy Threads on Saturday, from 1 pm to 4 pm.
- Shop for specific items and compile Housekeeping Starter Kits.
- Locate bicycles and necessary accessories when needed.
- Talk about JOY! Let our community know about our work and success in serving young people.
- Support our fundraisers, lead or join the planning committee, attend the events, and bring your friends.

Now that you have read a summary about JOY, Inc., you are aware that our community has recognized a need and taken action to extend the hand of friendship and support to a group of young adults who need and want connection with caring adults. Join JOY in our effort to improve the quality of life for young people aging out of foster care and other at-risk youth.

Membership levels:

- Individual \$35
- Couple \$50
- Benefactor \$100

Your donation or membership is most welcome and may be sent to:

Joining Our Youth
P. O. Box 48702
Sarasota, FL 34230

You may also use the PAY PAL feature from our website at joysarasota.org

JOY, Inc. is a 501©(3) organization