



# WOODFORD HOME

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*Dedicated to improving the lives of youth, families and communities.*



## About Us

### *The Woodford Home Program*

The Woodford Home, named in memory of Larry Woodford, was founded on the values that Larry embodied throughout his life—compassion, community, integrity and perseverance. Mr. Woodford was a South Bend native and 25-year Rite of Passage (ROP) veteran staff who dedicated his life to serving and supporting youth, and to providing mentorship and guidance to young men long after they graduated. Today, Woodford Home staff continue his legacy, guiding young men toward success.

The program mission is to provide a safe, therapeutic home for up to 12 young men, who benefit from participation in strengths-based services including independent living skills, education and vocational training, specialized services, community service and paid work experiences. Young men, who have successfully completed previous placements and are prepared to work toward community transition, will be considered for placement.

### *Operated with over 35 years of experience*

For over 35 years, ROP has developed a continuum of programs with the centralized mission of improving the lives of youth, families and communities. In 2015, ROP began operating DePaul Academy. Through their work in the South Bend community, staff recognized the need for aftercare and transitional services to help young men succeed. To meet this need, ROP established the Woodford Home, which provides a safe environment with opportunities for young men to build and practice the skills necessary to achieve life-long success.

# Transitional programming designed to make a difference.

## ***Engaging Activities***

Young men are supported in the development of their Service Plans and are expected to engage in therapeutic and wellness activities, learn employment skills and to benefit through paid work experiences and community service participation.

## ***Transition and Independent Living***

Transitional services and independent living are core components of the Woodford Home. Throughout the program, young men are afforded opportunities to develop and practice the skills necessary to succeed. Guided by transitional planning, youth receive instruction in independent living topics, complete job applications and access community resources and services. These learning opportunities allow the young men to experience the challenges of employment and budgeting while they save money in preparation for program completion. The Woodford Home partners with local employers to support the young men in gaining employment opportunities.

## ***Therapeutic Environment***

The rich 1:4 staff to youth ratio supports an environment of pro-social relationships, which assists staff in guiding young men through the daily “real life” challenges of work, education and life within a community setting. A Masters-level Therapist serves as the primary service provider and facilitates cognitive-based and/or psycho-educational groups as well as individual therapy and, based on need, family therapy.

## ***Family and Community Engagement***

Families actively participate in their son’s treatment program and discharge planning. Through their involvement, strong family connections and a support system are developed that will aid in the youth’s transition back into the community. Additionally, youth are encouraged to participate in community service projects and engagement activities that allow them to rebuild their community relationships by connecting them to resources, while developing social responsibility.





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