

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



August 2018

Local girls participate in beauty event

For thirteen girls served by the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF), the school year will be off to a beautiful start, thanks to a back to school event held on August 21.

The girls, who ranged in ages from 14 to 18, gathered at Bella Capelli in Robinson for an afternoon of self-care, which included hair styling, makeup application, nail services and bra fittings with two free bras. While waiting for services, the girls enjoyed chatting with their peers over a variety of delicious treats. All attendees received a gift bag of beauty supplies and a stack of affirmation bracelets that included phrases such as "I love who I am" and "I am not trying to fit in because I was born to stand out."

"For teen girls, feeling insecure about their appearance can prevent them from thriving at school," said Haley Koontz-Donohue, educational liaison, who helped to coordinate the event. "We wanted to offer this opportunity to help girls in congregate and foster care feel a bit more 'normal' and confident about themselves. Seeing the smiles on each of the girls as they finished their beauty treatments confirmed that the day was a great success."

This event was made possible by support from Ward Home's My Best Self program, which provides hair care, skin care and social exposure activities for youth ages 12-21, and the Saga Ladies who conducted the bra fittings. In the future, plans are in place to host similar grooming and social exposure events for populations like LGBTQ youth and younger children.