



DHS News

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Care packages enhance college experience for transition age youth

For college students who are living away from home, receiving a care package can be the highlight of their week, and DHS's educational liaisons are making sure that current and former foster youth do not miss out on that experience.

This is the second year educational liaisons will be sending spring and fall care packages to independent living (IL) youth who are living on campus, regardless of whether their case is closed. Each package includes items like medication, toiletries, cleaning products, headphones, and snacks, as well as encouraging notes. This fall, 27 youth will receive the packages at universities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Rhode Island. Purchase of the care packages was made possible through public donations for IL youth programs.

"As part of DHS's normalcy efforts, we are doing whatever we can to make sure that youth who have been involved with child welfare are still able to have the same experiences as their peers," said Nneka Hawthorne, educational liaison supervisor in the North and South CYF regional offices. "I think the care packages are important because many of our students have limited natural supports. The students have expressed excitement and appreciation when they receive the packages."