

RHY Assists Youth in Obtaining Identification and Health Insurance

In 2011, HOME's RHY Team assisted youth in acquiring identification and health insurance. Having the proper identification can be the first critical step in obtaining education, employment and/or housing and, therefore, moving out of homelessness.

It can be a long and arduous process with barriers such as cost (Oregon birth certificates cost \$20, other states vary), lack of access to family information, inconsistent availability of the youth, and bureaucratic hurdles.

We may work with 8 youth in one month trying to obtain one or more of these items and, as a result of barriers, will be unable to complete the process for any of those 8.

There are no funds in our RHY grant to pay for these necessary items. However, as a result of small grants from the community, including the Oregon State Penitentiary, the following transactions were successfully achieved last year:

- Youth applying for and receiving birth certificates through RHY help and funding = **7**
- Youth applying for and receiving an Oregon Identification Card through RHY help and funding = **13**
- Youth applying for and receiving their social security cards through RHY help = **5**
- Youth who now have medical insurance through the Healthy Kids Program after being signed up by RHY staff = **6**