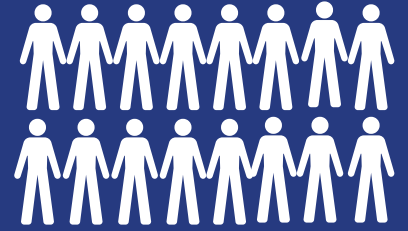


AGENCY OVERVIEW

Roots & Wings is a 501c(3) non-profit based in Denville, NJ, with scattered site housing in Morris and Union Counties. The RISE program provides free housing and support services, including access to educational/vocational training, life skills, and emotional support, to individuals aged 18-24 years old. Our goal is to empower young people who may lack the resources and skills necessary to embark on a path toward economic self-sufficiency.

By providing safe housing and the guidance of a highly trained staff, Roots & Wings enables program members to focus on setting and achieving their educational/vocational goals. Monthly house meetings and life skills groups strengthen social connections and provide opportunities to learn about financial literacy, job readiness, effective interpersonal skills, time management, and physical/mental well-being. Roots & Wings also offers tuition assistance, transportation, books, and an in-house pantry stocked with food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. As the program members progress through the program, they gain marketable skills and strengthen the executive functioning skills (problem-solving, decision-making, coping skills) necessary to transition into adulthood successfully.



16
YOUNG
ADULTS
Served in
2023

STATISTICS

- Nationally, more than 19,000 youth left foster care in 2021 without the support of a biological or adoptive family.
- More than 1 in 5 will become homeless within 18 months of emancipating.
- 1 in 4 will become parents between the ages of 19 and 21.
- Almost 50% of inmates in our prison systems have spent time in the foster care system.
- Only half of aged-out foster youth obtain their GED or High School diploma by age 19.
- Just 6% go on to earn a 2- or 4- year degree.

R&W MEMBERS ARE BEATING THE ODDS IN 2023:

- 4 members graduated from RISE into safe and stable housing.
- 100% have a High School diploma.
- 94 % were employed.
- 88% maintained a savings account.
- 81% attended an educational, vocational, or certificate program.
- 75% have their driver's licenses.

*Sources: The Annie. E. Casey Foundation, National Conference of State Legislatures, and National Foster Youth Institute

For more information, visit our website at www.rootandwingsnj.org, scan the QR code, or contact Tisha Mender, Senior Program Director at tisha.mender@rootsandwingsnj.org
973-453-6668



Jamani

Jamani joined Roots & Wings two years ago. Despite attending four different high schools, she graduated on time and currently attends Caldwell University. She is studying for her BS in Chemistry and Secondary Education, and has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher every semester. Her ultimate goal is to become a Chemistry teacher in a high-needs school district.

“It is my hope that upon securing an opportunity to teach and assist others, that I can become a part of their story as Roots & Wings is a part of mine.”

We are inspired by Jamani’s hard work and admire her dedication to her dream!

“Roots & Wings saw the best part of me, and they encouraged me when I needed it most. Their message is not just about today but the many tomorrows, and I am forever grateful.”



“Having a safe home while at R&W allowed me to focus on my aspiration of becoming an attorney; gaining legal experience, receiving help with LSAT prep, and learning how to save for the future. I am so grateful for all the support!”

Diana

Congratulations to our most recent graduate of the RISE Program, Diana! She earned her bachelor's degree from Montclair State University in Justice Studies and is working full-time as a paralegal in a healthcare company. A responsible and dedicated employee, Diana maintained her job at the same firm throughout her participation in RISE. She plans on taking the LSAT and applying to law schools soon. While at RISE, Diana worked very hard and saved enough money to be able to afford to rent the beautiful apartment she recently moved into.

Congratulations, Diana! We wish you much success as you continue to pursue your dream of working in the legal field.

