



Who We Are

Youth Transitions is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation based in Knoxville, TN. We are dedicated to training and employing students in special education programs for employment opportunities in the foodservice industry.

What We Do

Youth Transitions prepares students through daily food production and preparation for active restaurants, special events, and local churches.

Youth Transitions, Inc. is a non-profit corporation based in Knoxville, Tennessee. We are dedicated to employing high school students in special education programs, and young adults for career employment opportunities in the foodservice industry.

Please send questions or comments to:
youthtransitions@bellsouth.net

Youth Transitions, Inc.

4941 Angelia Drive
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37921
 865-660-6680
 Chris Harper, Sr., President

Youth Transitions Believes:

1. Transitioning youth will have productive careers in the foodservice industry as long as they desire.
2. Students can have fulltime employment, in addition to all available employee benefits offering.
3. Students youth will earn competitive wages and salaries in the foodservice industry.
4. Student graduates of the Prostart, Youth Transitions program will be an active participant in the growth of the foodservice industry.
5. Transitioning youth are a new solution for employee staff needs in the restaurant industry.

The Beginnings

Youth Transitions, Inc. was born out of a need to recruit and retain staff at a local restaurant in Knoxville, Tennessee. Students will have a variety of opportunities in the foodservice industry in Tennessee.

The goals were threefold:

1. Maintain or improve restaurant profitability.
2. Each employee must perform at least three job functions in the restaurant.
3. Each employee must be able to maintain learned skills through their tenure.

The Pilot Project

Three individuals with disabilities were hired over an eight year period. The three individuals were employed for 11 years, 10 years, and four years respectively. Moreover, the three project goals were met and exceeded through the personal successes of each employee. Restaurant profits were maintained over the project period. Next, two of the employees were proficient in three or more job functions. One employee was proficient in two job functions and developed skills in several support areas of the restaurant.

The Action

A graduate student conducted a county-wide survey of local restaurants to determine the primary challenge to employment of individuals with disabilities. Over 85% of foodservice owners and operators surveyed believed that persons with disabilities could be productive in the foodservice industry. Survey results determined that 80% of foodservice owners and operators felt that time constraints and proper training minimized their desire to hire a persons with a disabilities.

Youth Transitions

Youth Transitions, Inc. was founded as an employee solution for the foodservice industry. Through a partnership with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the Tennessee Restaurant Association, Youth Transitions, Inc. will establish an industry-trained source of employees for the foodservice industry. Students will have a variety of opportunities in the foodservice industry in the state of Tennessee.



In Partnership with:			
National Restaurant Association			
Mid-Day Café			
Cokesbury United Methodist Church			
Tennessee School for the Deaf			
Knoxville Transit Café			
National Restaurant Association			

Career Transition Employment Through the Restaurant Industry

Parents / Students



The Youth Transitions Culinary Arts

Program features:

- Daily hands-on Cooking
- Culinary Skill Training:
 - Grilling techniques: beef, fish, chicken
 - Seafood preparation
 - Beef preparation
- Special Event Catering
- Baking Techniques:
 - Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Muffins
- Summer Employment opportunities
- Competitive Culinary Cooking

Employers

Students training includes the following:

- National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Prostart curriculum
- Customer Service training included at Mid-Day Café and Knoxville Transit Café
- Bulk Food Production and Par Sheet fulfillment
- Safety & Sanitation
- Knife Skills
- Work Ethic
- Sense of Urgency



- Video Training methods
- Four-level Development Training Rubric

Community

Program located at:

Cokesbury United Methodist Church
9919 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922

- Mid-Day Café staffed by Youth Transitions students
- Knoxville Transit Café staffed by Students
- Students gain full range of foodservice skills:
 - Customer service
 - Full-service restaurant skills
 - Healthcare foodservice training
 - Teamwork: working with others
 - Resume development

