

Gateway to Independence (The Gate) was started in 2004 to address a need in Blount County.

Young people with significant disabilities typically remain in school until the age of 21. When they leave school, there are few options available to them.

At The Gate, 31 young people come together twice each week at Sycamore Tree United Methodist Church to socialize with peers, volunteers and staff members.

For many parents of these young people, the time spent at The Gate is the only respite the parent has from their full time care giving responsibilities.

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