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HOMELESS YOUTH TO GAIN NEW HOUSING OPTION IN MINNEAPOLIS

*City, County and State officials along with non-profit developers
to break ground for Lindquist Apartments Aug. 18*

New facility to provide housing, life skills training for youth and create 43 new jobs

MINNEAPOLIS (JULY 29, 2004) - When it comes to homelessness in the Twin Cities, many people think it's not an issue. But, in fact, it is. According to a Wilder homelessness study, on a cold night last October, 75 Twin Cities youth were homeless, only 58 percent attended school that day, and one in six had a child of his/her own who also was homeless. One out of 10 had even traded sex for shelter, food and clothing.

To help curb this problem, RS Eden and Life's Missing Link – organizations dedicated to helping troubled inner city youth and families – have developed Lindquist Apartments, a permanent, affordable, supportive housing facility that will soon be constructed for area youth. To celebrate, key city, county and state officials, donors, developers and other notable leaders will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the community on Aug. 18 at 12:00 p.m. The ceremony will take place at 1931 West Broadway in North Minneapolis. Mayor R.T. Rybak, Council Member Johnson Lee, Commissioner Mark Stenglein and the co-developers will speak about what this project means to youth in the Twin Cities.

“We have been working with funders and the community since 1997 to make Lindquist Apartments a reality. Along with RS Eden, we raised \$4.5 million to build this affordable, permanent, supportive housing for young people. Our vision is to provide support services with safe and affordable housing to assist the residents in learning how to live on their own. Lindquist Apartments will provide a stepping stone from homelessness to stable and productive lives”, said Deb Renshaw, Executive Director of Life's Missing Link.

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Lindquist Apartments will open in July of 2005, and will provide the following:

- 24 efficiency apartments for single males and females aged 16 and older who are homeless, transitioning out of foster care or in tenuous housing situations
- On-site programming from Life's Missing Link, including case management, life skills training, social activities and employment and referral assistance
- A safe, secure and sober environment

The facility also will be the new home for RS Eden Administrative Departments and RS Eden Supportive Housing and Development, among other affiliated departments and programs, bringing 43 new jobs to the area.

“It is critical to continue building on new beginnings, and we are so happy that Lindquist Apartments will do just that for needy youth in the Twin Cities,” said Dan Cain, President of RS Eden. “It is our goal to create safe and healthy communities to foster healthy individuals and families. We hope the new facility will become a safe haven for many young people.”

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About Life's Missing Link

Life's Missing Link, Inc. is a non-profit organization started in 1991 by Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed, two former Minnesota Viking football players. The organization is dedicated to helping inner-city youth in Minneapolis realize their full potential, and provides services such as case management, youth advocacy, life skills training, social activities and employment and referral assistance.

About RS Eden

Since 1971, RS Eden has been a leader in delivering effective services to Minnesota and surrounding communities. From early achievements in substance abuse treatment and correctional residential programs, RS Eden has evolved into a multi-faceted agency that facilitates positive change in the areas of chemical dependency, family services, corrections and affordable housing.