



THE

White

2006 ANNUAL REPORT







# Commitment to Community

## OUR MISSION

To build a supportive community network that links youth and their families to their inner strength through life skills, education, advocacy, supportive housing and a dynamic network of social services to transform lives.

## OUR VISION

We see a future in which supportive communities nurture confident, happy and secure youth.

### 2006 Staff Members of The Link

Deborah Renshaw, Executive Director  
Jaime Kambiri, Program Director  
Jim Stillman, Operations Manager  
DeDe Scanlon, Community Outreach Developer  
Julia O'Brien, Major Gifts Officer  
Valerie Aas, Development and Communications Officer  
Lauren Rimstad, Development and Communications Officer  
Kate Tobin, Project Potential Program Manager  
Erin Wixsten, Lindquist Apartments Program Manager  
Julia Welle, Building Supportive Communities Coordinator  
Bob Schneeweis, Building Supportive Communities Coordinator  
Nue Xiong, Project Potential Case Manager/Youth Advocate  
Jackie Wright, Project Potential Case Manager  
Molly Wilson Lahr, Project Potential Case Manager

Jill Smith, Project Potential Case Manager  
Chris Schwagerl, Project Potential Case Manager  
Matisha Williams, Project Potential Case Manager  
Kelly Gillman, Office Assistant  
S. Jason Carver, Lindquist Apartments Case Manager  
Justin Terrell, Lindquist Apartments Case Manager  
Kay Cooper, Lindquist Apartments Case Manager  
Katie Haas, Lindquist Apartments Case Manager  
Tamara Seymore, Lindquist Apartments Case Manager  
Joan Anderson, Lindquist Apartments Overnight Staff  
Leon Williams, Lindquist Apartments Overnight Staff  
Edward Miller, Lindquist Apartments Youth Worker  
Olive Williams, Lindquist Apartments Receptionist

### Board Members of The Link

Gene A. Scapanski, **University of St. Thomas**: *Chairperson*  
Ingrid Nyberg Culp, **Fredrikson & Byron**: *Vice Chairperson*  
Kelly Puspoki, **Weber Shandwick**: *Secretary, Chair of Marketing*  
Rick Riesgraf, **Carlson Advisors, Ltd.**: *Treasurer, Chair of Finance*  
L. Kelley Lindquist, **Artspace Projects**: *Chair of Development*  
Leonardo Castro, **Hennepin County Office of the Public Defender**  
Nancy Flury, **Lindquist & Vennum**  
Marido Huber, **Greater Minneapolis Convention Center**  
Paul C. N. Mellblom, **Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd.**  
George Sutton, **Craig-Hallum**  
Willie Bridges, **Hennepin County**  
Crystal Hatcher, **Venture Bank**  
Sharman Davis Barrett, **PACER Center**  
Commissioner Gail Dorfman, **Hennepin County**  
Jackie Larson, **RBC Dain Rauchser**  
Mel McCaa, **SGI**

## Project Potential

(formerly Truancy Intervention Program)

Project Potential provides intensive one-on-one case management, role modeling, and resiliency training to youth ages 10 through 17 at high risk for delinquency and drop out. In 2006,

- Case Managers worked in 85 schools in Hennepin County.
- 76% of youth improved their school attendance.
- 86% improved behavior at home and at school.
- 86% completed court orders.
- 88% of those who were not enrolled in a school at intake became enrolled in an appropriate school.

2006 Program Budget: \$382,462  
219 Youth Empowered in 2006

## Lindquist Apartments

Lindquist Apartments provides 24 units of permanent, sober, supportive housing for homeless and disabled youth ages 16 and up. In 2006,

- 100% of residents engaged in The Link's case management services, and 75% engaged in Link-sponsored community building activities, neither of which are mandatory for residency.
- 100% of the residents without their diploma or GED were working towards completion of their degree.
- 24 residents enrolled in a school or educational courses while living at Lindquist Apartments.
- 50% of residents were employed at least part-time.
- 27 residents gained employment while living at Lindquist Apartments.

2006 Program Budget: \$352,837  
39 Housed in 2006

## Building Supportive Communities

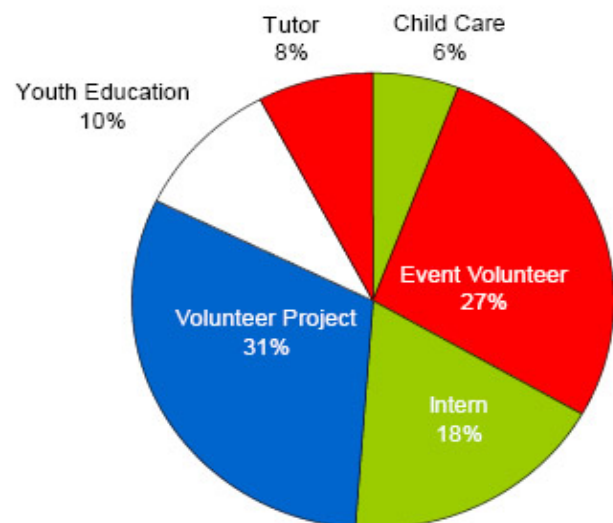
Building Supportive Communities supports and trains students, parents, educators, and social service providers in Health Realization - a unique approach to leveraging every person's internal wisdom, strength and thought process to surpass any challenge. In 2006,

- The Building Supportive Communities Program provided:
  - 27 community planning meetings,
  - 27 Health Realization Support Groups,
  - 29 Health Realization Trainings, and
  - 21 individual mentoring sessions.
- 82% of Building Supportive Communities participants reported significant increases in:
  - empowerment,
  - openness to others' perspectives,
  - control over their reactions to events, and
  - options for dealing with stress.

2006 Program Budget: \$120,524  
347 Educated and Supported in 2006

## Community Outreach

### Volunteer Activities in 2006



2006 Program Budget: \$31,622  
70 Volunteers Engaged in 2006

# Highlights in 2006

## Organizational Developments

- The Link celebrated 15 years of service.
- The Link's three-year strategic plan was developed and implemented, and The Link instigated a name, mission and vision change.
- The goals of The Link's current strategic plan are that The Link:
  - Is a trusted resource for youth and families in the community;
  - Will create a healthy community network that supports youth; &
  - Will continue to respond to the needs of the community by offering youth advocacy, school support, family support, and supportive housing services.

## New Programming

- Gang Prevention and In-School Support for Project Potential
- Work Link
- Tutor Link
- Independent Living Skills Program at Lindquist Apartments

## Program Developments

- Project Potential became the new name for the Truancy Intervention Program.
- Project Potential received funding to add four new staff in the first quarter of 2007.
- Project Potential expanded its focus from serving *only* youth who have been adjudicated for chronic truancy, to serving *both* truant youth and low-level juvenile offenders.
- Additional Lindquist Apartments support staff were hired to expand The Link's ability to serve Lindquist Residents.

Youth for Justice  
August, 2006



Health Realization Activity  
January, 2006



Boundary Waters Trip  
July, 2006



Gift Link  
December, 2006



Youth for Justice  
June, 2006



Lindquist Thanksgiving Dinner  
November, 2006



Tutor Link  
November, 2006



Lindquist Apartments  
May, 2006



Work Link  
October, 2006



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