

Teens Use Summer to Help Community

Thirty teenagers spent the summer learning about leadership and connecting with community around them through The Link's Youth for Justice program. Teens took part in eight service projects to support the community.



One impactful project was working with Sisters Camelot distributing fruits and vegetables to those in need in North Minneapolis. The youth also worked with an artist to create murals that are displayed at 40th and Bloomington by El Coliquio charter school. The teens took pride in impacting the community through the service projects. At the conclusion of the summer program, all 30 teens felt a much stronger part of the community.

Backpacks Help Start Year Off Right

Having the right supplies and having a "cool" backpack helps our teens feel like school is a place they can succeed. This summer we collected enough backpacks and school supplies to send more than 100 kids off to school feeling confident. We want to thank City County Federal Credit Union, the Minnesota Lynx and Weber Shandwick for coordinating school supply drives. If you would like to set up a donation drive, please contact Tim Reneau-Major at 612-767-4470.

THE
Link
building
supportive
communities
for youth

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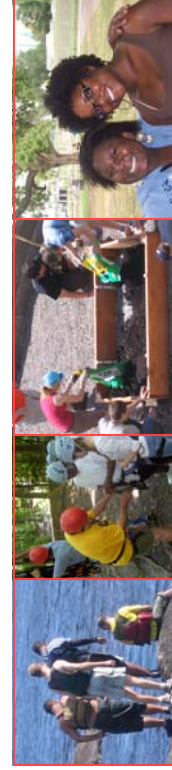
The Link's mission is to build a supportive community network that links youth and their families to their inner strength through life skills, education, advocacy, supportive housing, and a dynamic network of social services to transform lives.

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THE
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Fall 2008 Newsletter
Connecting you to our mission.

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Canoe Trip Provides Chance Away from The Cities

On a warm and humid summer morning, six teenage boys headed out of Minneapolis up Highway 35 to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). For some of these teens this was their first time leaving Minneapolis. These boys would spend the next four days canoeing the BWCA learning how they individually could handle difficult situations.



One night as the group was about to set up camp for the evening, the island they

intended to make home for the night was full. The boys were frustrated and angry. That anger grew as they continued on to the next camp site, and it was full. The group canoed for three hours stopping at eight sites before they found an empty one. The kids let go of their anger and without complaint, they each found their place in setting up camp for the night. This example of growth was just one highlight as the teens grew personally with a better understanding that they could deal with stresses of life through their own determination.



Mark Your Calendar for The Link's Events

The Link has the following event happening in the coming months:

Gift Link Party

Sponsored by Richard Moody, December 8th, 7:00 p.m.—Midnight at The View

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Gift Link Ramping Up for the Holidays

While it might seem early to start thinking about the holidays, The Link is looking for groups to organize donation drives for our Gift Link.



Your donation to The Link's Gift Link will provide those in need with something special during the holiday season. Please contact Tim Reneau-Major at 612-767-4470 to set up a Gift Link Drive. Here are some of our holiday needs:

- Cell Phone Pay Cards
- DVD's for Youth ages 12 and Up
- Playing Cards
- Sporting Goods
- Video Games
- Crafts
- Cosmetic Cases and cosmetics
- Hats and Gloves
- Batteries

Lindquist Resident Scores Highest on Test

Chad was feeling very discouraged after failing a drug-test and an apartment inspection. He had come to Lindquist Apartments from a dysfunctional family and wanted to succeed. These last setbacks had the 17-year old thinking about moving back home. Chad met with Cameron, a new Case Manager for Lindquist Apartments.



Chad commented that he was energized to have a male case manager. Someone who might understand him better. Chad shared that he still wanted to earn his GED. This was a goal he had set up when he moved into Lindquist

Apartments more than a year ago. Chad's anxiety and insecurities were a barrier to accomplishing this and other goals.

Within three months of re-evaluating his goals with Cameron, Chad had earned his GED. He scored within the 95th percentile on three of the six exams. He had the highest math score the testing facility had ever seen!

Chad has renewed confidence after doing so well on his test. He is now focused on "what's next". He wants to continue his education and is looking to start college next spring.

Helping John Get On Track

"I want a job but can't find one", 15 year-old John exclaimed during a visit to The Link's Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC). John was at the JSC again for being out past curfew. John, a gang member, shared he was out because he did not have anything else to do and he was bored. He was hoping to find a job and something positive in his life.

The Link's staff met with John to help him apply for a job and learn interview skills. While he has not found a job yet, he has taken it upon himself to apply for jobs without any help from our staff. He's confident he will have a job soon!

John also was not enrolled in school. He had problems in school and had missed the last two appointments he had with his mom to enroll. Our staff worked with him so he would understand the importance of continuing in school. John is enrolled at a local area high school and is doing well. He actually enjoys school!

John is the first one to admit he has made some poor decisions in his life. He is now trying to make the right decisions that will put him on a positive direction for his life. Having The Link's staff help him find that starting point was just what he needed.

The JSC will serve more than 3,000 youth ages 10-17 this year. Youth are brought to the JSC for curfew, truancy and low level offenses. 83% of referred youth are one-time offenders

Ernst & Young Volunteers Help with Landscaping

Taking advantage of one of the last nice days of summer, Ernst & Young volunteers joined our staff to finish landscaping around our 1210 Glenwood office. The Ernst & Young volunteers helped trim trees, plant bulbs and grass seed, as well as pull weeds and spread woodchips. The Link appreciates their help in making us a good neighbor. If you are interested in volunteering with The Link, please contact Tim Reneau-Major at 612-767-4470.



The Link Volunteer Needs

The Link has many one-time and on-going volunteer needs in the coming months. To volunteer with The Link, please contact Tim Reneau-Major at 612-767-4470. Here is a list of some of our needs:

- Gift Wrappers
- Meal Prep
- Tutors
- Mail Stuffing