



building
supportive
communities
for youth.

Programs



"I came to The Link needing to catch up in school. The Link's training helped me to learn how to take ownership of my own actions, and because of that, I stay calmer in stressful situations and I'm more motivated to go to school. This is high school, there is no time to play around, this is what counts, this is my future."

- Troy, 15

Juvenile Supervision Center

The Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) provides services and connections to resources that stop youth's progress into the juvenile justice system and increase connections to school and positive behavior. Youth who have been picked up by law enforcement in Hennepin County are brought to the JSC. The Link provides: around the clock support, services tailored to the unique needs of each youth, assistance to parents, educational activities, and information on rights and responsibilities.

- More than 2,000 youth were served at the Juvenile Supervision Center.
- 79% of youth did not return to the JSC after their initial visit.
- 66% of youth who did return; returned only once.



Project Potential

Project Potential is a youth advocacy and school support program for youth ages 10-17 who are disconnected from their education and community, behind academically, show negative behaviors and lack support. Project Potential offers intensive case management, resiliency training, and group activities.

- 81% of youth improved behavior.
- 79% of youth improved attendance.

In-School Initiative at Olson Middle School in North Minneapolis offers students one-on-one youth specific support and advocacy, tutoring, after school activities, mentoring, positive role modeling, and an eight-week curriculum for resiliency and overcoming challenges.

- 96% of youth improved academic achievement.
- 92% of youth improved behavior.



Gang-Intervention Initiative supports gang-involved youth, but also includes services for family members, probation officers, teachers and community contacts to take on gang involvement, delinquency and truancy head on.

- 95% of youth completed a plan to reduce gang involvement, and worked on the goals of the plan.
- 90% of youth decreased or suspended gang related activities.

Lindquist Apartments

Lindquist Apartments offers 24 units of permanent, sober, supportive housing for homeless and disabled youth, ages 16 and up. Residents have access to: around the clock support from Case Managers, assistance with goal setting, life skills education, work readiness training, independent living skills instruction, mental and chemical health support, a safe environment, and resiliency training.

- 88% of residents fulfilled their productivity requirements.
- 88% of residents maintained their sobriety while living at Lindquist Apartments.





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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.



"I started to get into trouble when I hung out with the tough kids at school—but I just wanted to hang out with friends and have something to do with my time. My case manager at The Link got me applying for jobs— and I think I might get one soon."

- Marcus, 17

Our Work

The Link provides in-home, in-school and in-community truancy and delinquency intervention services; family support; community outreach and trainings; affordable, supportive housing for youth; after-school and summer youth groups; and around the clock support and intervention for the youth brought to the Juvenile Supervision Center.



Our Results

In 2008, The Link served a total of 2,677 youth, family members, and community members.
32 residents of Lindquist Apartments accessed services provided by The Link.
41 gang-involved youth decreased or suspended gang activity.
54 fifth-graders improved their grades and test scores in school.
176 of the 2093 youth entering the JSC were referred for intensive case management.
Project Potential worked with students in 89 schools throughout Hennepin County.



Our History

The Link was founded in 1991 by two former Minnesota Vikings players in collaboration with Leonard Lindquist who shared a vision of bringing opportunity and positive relationships to disempowered youth living in impoverished neighborhoods. This grassroots initiative has since blossomed into an experienced youth service organization. Over the past 18 years, The Link has touched the lives of more than 17,500 youth and their family members.

Our Philosophy

Through The Link's 18 years of experience in youth development services with those who have chronically been disempowered and involved in the juvenile justice system, we have recognized the importance of working with youth using a strength-based perspective. We teach and model resiliency principles of the *Health Realization Community Empowerment Model* with the hope that The Link's participants will experience the internal change they need to be motivated to live successful, independent lives.



Contact Information

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The Link is an Equal Opportunity Employer.