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Dear Friend,

As another year has come to an end, I am once again incredibly grateful for the amazing work being done by The Link community. Since Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed founded The Link 29 years ago in North Minneapolis, we continue to grow and adapt to meet the needs of youth struggling with homelessness, involved in the juvenile justice system, and/or who are being sexually exploited. This would not have been possible without you! I hope that you too are inspired when you see everything the youth have accomplished this year, and continue to support us along our journey.

This year, we have continued to expand our reach into the suburban metro areas, where there are too few resources for young people experiencing homelessness. As of December, we are proud to have added 17 new units to our Suburban Rapid Rehousing and Cairn Housing Programs, expanding mostly in Washington and Dakota counties. Thanks to our teams and youth-led committee's hard work, we can now offer housing and supportive services to even more young people. For them, this is a chance to find stability and develop skills that will empower them for the rest of their lives.

We are also thrilled to have opened our Northside Homeless Prevention Program, a culturally specific program for African American youth on the Northside of Minneapolis through the generous support of the Pohlad Family Foundation. No one should ever lose a safe place to sleep at night because they are not able to meet rent. Unfortunately, with rising rents and increasingly scarce housing, it is becoming harder for families to get by. By providing immediate financial help and supportive services, we are making sure that youth and families in North Minneapolis are able to stay safely housed.

Youth are the force leading our organization, propelling us to grow and to deepen the quality of our programming. Our work is both for them and because of them. The five Youth Advisory Committees have done incredible work this year. With their leadership and expertise from their lived experiences, they have helped us design, implement, and evaluate our programs to make sure they are as relevant and effective as possible. They have also inspired us and led by example, organizing rallies and being fierce advocates for policy changes at the local, state and national levels.

Our work would simply not be possible without our community partners, volunteers, or valued donors. We are so grateful for your willingness to give, and your commitment to a just society. What you do is incredibly meaningful to our organization and for the youth we serve. On behalf of everyone at The Link, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Sincerely,

Beth Holger

A large blue circular graphic on the right side of the page. Inside the circle, the text "THE link" is written in a white, stylized font, with "THE" in all caps and "link" in a lowercase script. Below this, the words "A LETTER FROM OUR CEO" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked in four lines.

THE link
A LETTER
FROM OUR
CEO

MISSION

The Link works with youth and families to overcome the impacts of poverty and social injustice.

VISION

A community supporting all youth in having equitable access and opportunity.

EDI STATEMENT

The Link will promote ongoing learning to better serve youth and families, broaden staff knowledge base and cultural awareness/competence resulting in equity, diversity and inclusion visible at all levels of the organization.

THE LINK'S LEADERSHIP

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Link is a youth and adult led organization. The Link has five youth advisory committees that are made up of youth that have experienced homelessness, sex trafficking and/or involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. These committee members are paid, part-time staff at The Link, helping to lead the organization and helping to work for social and racial justice at the community, state and national level.

- Survivor Advisory Committee
- Peris Youth Advisory Committee
- Power of Youth Advisory Committee
- PLOL: Project Live Out Loud Advisory Committee
- RILE: Rooted in Lived Experience Advisory Committee



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Past Program Participant of
The Link & Licensed Graduate
Social Worker

CHRISTINE YOUNG
Choice Bank

YOUTH LEADERSHIP 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Through The Link's five Youth Advisory Committees, young people with lived experience of homelessness, sex trafficking and/or involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems provided key leadership, advocacy and training across our community.



RAISED AWARENESS FOR THE
LINK AT COMMUNITY EVENTS
INCLUDING PRIDE,
JUNETEENTH AND JUVENILE
WARRANT FORGIVENESS DAY



LEADING THE GRAND CHALLENGE IN
HENNEPIN COUNTY, WORKING TO
END HOMELESSNESS FOR LGBTQ
YOUTH AND YOUTH OF COLOR
ACROSS AMERICA



39 YOUTH PROVIDED
1,759 HOURS OF PAID
LEADERSHIP AT THE
LINK AND IN THE
COMMUNITY



ADVOCACY AT THE MN
CAPITOL RESULTING IN
\$2 MILLION INCREASE TO
SAFE HARBOR FOR SEX
TRAFFICKED YOUTH



LED COMMUNITY
TRAININGS ON SEX
TRAFFICKING, THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
AND HOMELESSNESS

Learn more about Youth Leadership at The Link at www.thelinkmn.org/leadership



36 youth successfully
graduated
from the Marshall
Reed Youth Center

38 youth AVOIDED
homelessness with new
prevention programming



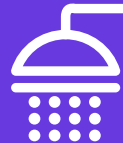
THE *link*

2,100
youth & families
served

**2019
STATS**



749



visits made by youth experiencing
homelessness to the CORE Drop-In Center in
Dakota County for basic needs

85% of youth
identify as people
of color

42 little ones
housed with
our Young
Families
Program



41 trafficked youth were provided
shelter and housing at Passageways

426

youth were offered
educational support
through School Matters



23 LGBTQ
youth exited
homelessness



243

youth and
young
families
housed

39 youth
employed
by The Link



New in
2019

Northside Homeless Prevention Program

The Northside Prevention Program helps youth and families in North Minneapolis who are facing eviction stay in their homes and avoid experiencing homelessness. The program, made possible by the generous support of the Pohlad Family Foundation, provides immediate financial assistance and supportive services as well as housing for youth who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the housing system.

In addition to housing, The Link also provides trauma informed and strength based supportive services for youth that include but are not limited to case management, life skills education, assistance with education and employment, connections to mental health and chemical dependency treatment, connections to health care services, support groups, positive youth development activities and leadership development opportunities.



Diamond is a 24-year-old youth who was living in her car before being connected with The Link's Northside Homeless Prevention Program. With the support of The Link, Diamond was able to move into safe and stable housing in North Minneapolis. The day that she signed her lease agreement, Diamond stated that the first thing she wanted to do was lay down on her brand-new bed because it had been several months since she was able to actually sleep in a bed.

Diamond stated, "I feel like The Link really cares about the young adults they serve and not just because they give young adults things they need and want, but because they show it with actions. Now that I have stable housing, I have the ability to focus on other goals and aspirations. I started drawing again, found employment and eventually I want to start looking for my own apartment in Minneapolis."

FINANCIALS

REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Community Giving	\$ 307,894
Corporations and Foundations	\$ 1,380,813
Government Contracts	\$ 6,678,836
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 315,162
Events	\$ 247,453
Other	\$ 15,581

Total Support and Revenue: \$ 8,945,739

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 7,190,346
Management and General	\$ 833,760
Marketing and Development	\$ 395,528

Total Expenses: \$ 8,419,634

Total Change in Net Assets: \$ 526,105

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 690,900
Contracts and Grants Receivable	\$ 1,342,089
Property and Equipment	\$ 1,610,700
Other Assets	\$ 192,704
Less Accumulated Depreciation	- 543,428

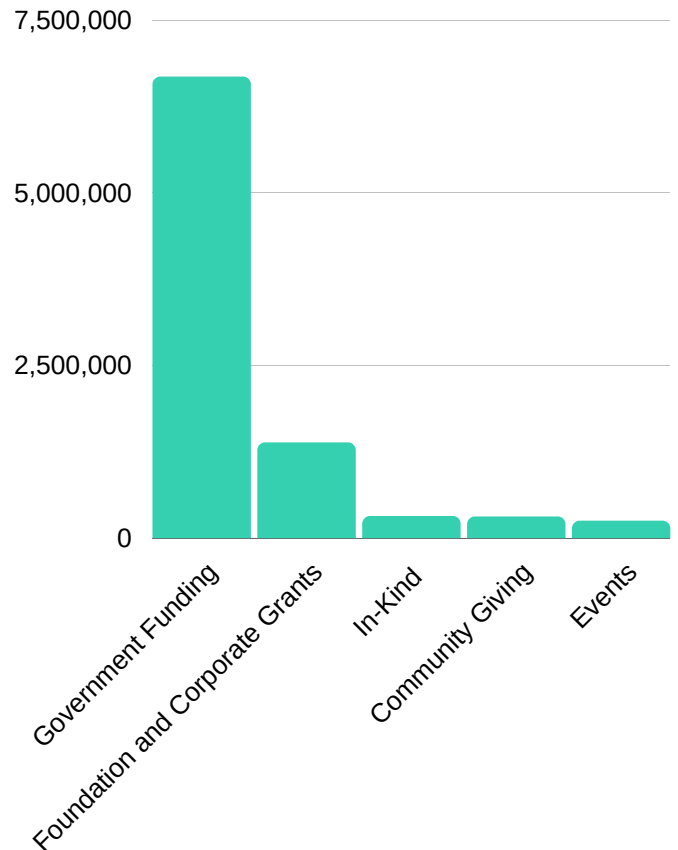
Total Assets: \$3,293,035

LIABILITIES

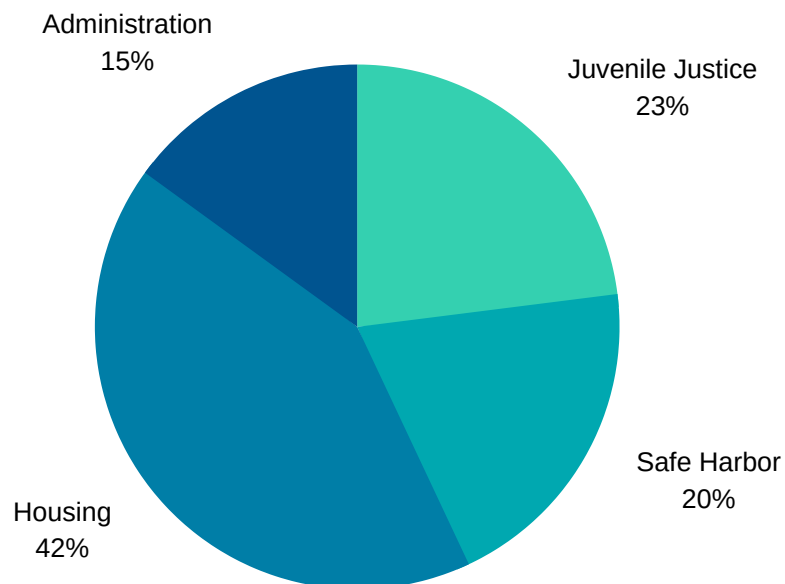
Current Liabilities	\$ 582,819
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 258,518
Total Net Assets	\$ 2,451,698

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: \$ 3,293,035

Revenues



Expenses



YOUR DONATIONS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

2019



\$307,894



in community donations



\$33,915

donated by
individuals on
social media

\$247,453
raised through
fundraising events

In-kind donations totaling



\$315,162

\$24,000

donated by

94

monthly givers



\$1,380,813

from
corporations
& foundations



\$52,460

raised on



Give to
the Max
Day

Thank you to everyone who made a financial donation(s), became a monthly donor, donated supplies & basic needs items and/or attended our events. We were able to work with 2,100 youth and young families this year because of your support.

Thank you!



**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**

YOUR SUPPORT
CHANGES LIVES!

