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
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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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
youth and young families housed

36 youth successfully graduated from the Marshall Reed Youth Center

2,100 youth & families served

85% of youth identify as people of color

2019STATS

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

41 trafficked youth were provided shelter and housing at Passageways

426 youth were offered educational support through School Matters

42 little ones housed with our Young Families Program

23 LGBTQ youth exited homelessness

39 youth employed by The Link

243
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
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!