

**THE LINK WORKS WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
OVERCOME THE IMPACTS OF POVERTY AND
SOCIAL INJUSTICE.**



57 youth received a brand new pair of shoes for graduating from one of our Evening Reporting Centers



18 young families experiencing homelessness moved into stable housing



2,165
youth served in 2016 by all three divisions

42 female youth served in the POWER program

88% of youth and young families served identify as African American, Native American, Hispanic, Southeast Asian or Multi-Racial

188 units of housing

35 families participated in the Young Families Program



31 youth received emergency shelter and supportive services at Passageways



83 youth experiencing homelessness moved into stable housing

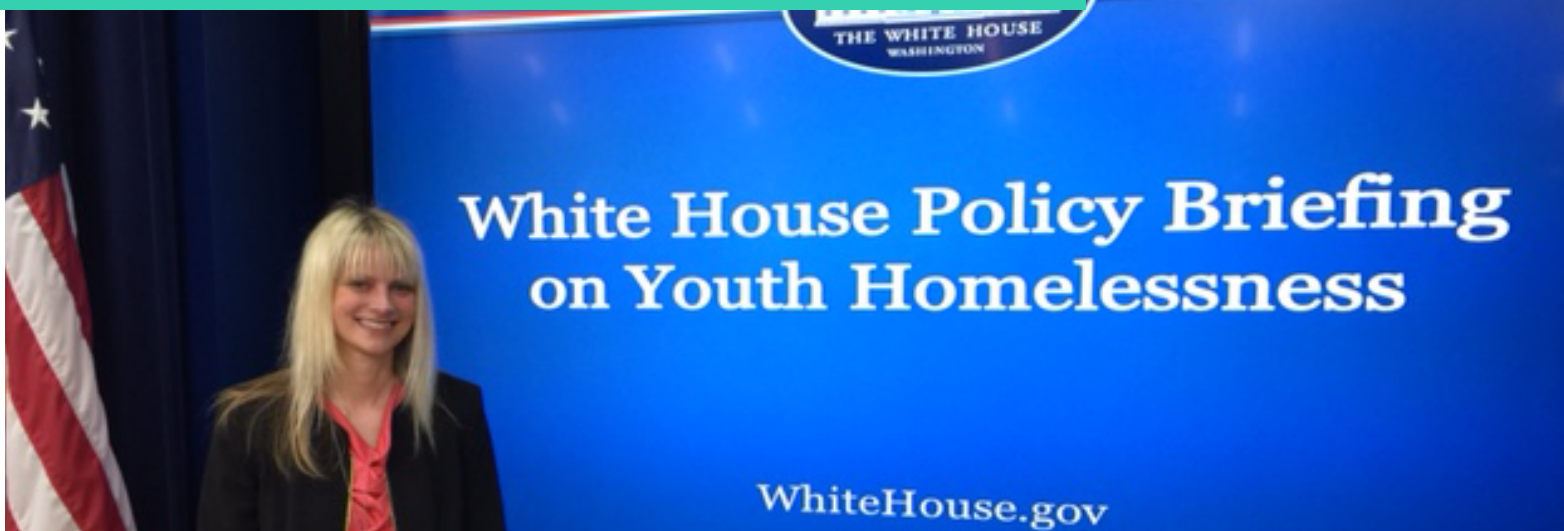
32,642
meetings to connect youth with supportive services in the community

950

youth avoided detention & were provided with case management through the Juvenile Supervision Center

**2016
STATS**

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Beth Holger-Ambrose, our Executive Director, was at the White House on June 3, for the Policy Briefing on Ending Youth Homelessness.

Dear Friends of The Link,

I am writing this letter with great appreciation and thanks for all of your support throughout 2016 and beyond! We truly could not do the work of supporting young people in our community without all of the great partnerships and support from you!

2016 was another great year and one of growth at The Link. We successfully opened our new housing program (Project Live Out Loud) for LGBTQ youth who are experiencing homelessness, as well as our gender specific program for girls on probation within Hennepin county (P.O.W.E.R. which stands for Positive Opportunities for Women of Every Race). As we know, young people who are getting involved in crime often do so because they are struggling with other things in their lives such as poverty, childhood abuse or neglect. The goal with all of our juvenile justice programs including the P.O.W.E.R. Program is to help young people overcome the underlying causes of their involvement in juvenile crime and help support and empower them to achieve their goals in a positive direction.

At The Link as well as across the country we see the impact that racism, homophobia and transphobia have in terms of the disproportionate rates of LGBTQ and youth of color who are experiencing homelessness. We are happy to have opened Project Live Out Loud to support and empower some of the youth affected but know that much more needs to be done! We are committed to working with youth every day who are impacted by social injustice and dedicated to partnering with our local and national community in the fight against all forms of oppression.

I feel so fortunate to be able to be a part of the work here at The Link and within our wider community. To me, there is nothing more honorable than being able to be a part of a young person's journey to transition out of homelessness, sex trafficking and/or involvement with the juvenile justice system and seeing them accomplish the larger goals they have for themselves.

Thank you so much for your support over the last year. We truly appreciate all that you do to help us continue to overcome the impacts of poverty and social injustice.

Sincerely,

Beth Holger-Ambrose

Beth Holger-Ambrose
Executive Director



VALUES

Youth

We value and incorporate youth voice into all we do.

Inclusion

We respect all people, value diversity and are committed to equity.

Quality

We strive for program excellence through continuous improvement and evidence based practices.

Advancement

We aspire to lead through innovative and cutting edge programming.

BOARD

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Past Program Participant at The Link



The Link's Annual Event

2016 MARKED 25 YEARS!

The Link's 25th Anniversary Celebration took place at ARIA on Thursday, April 21st, 2016. It was a milestone event celebrating 25 years of topnotch programming and services for youth in this community. The event raised more than \$105,000 through sponsorship, attendance, silent auction, and generous donations! Proceeds from the evening helped The Link fund all 19 programs.

The Link welcomed more than 200 guests as we honored our founders Jim Marshall, Oscar Reed, and Leonard Lindquist with Legacy Awards; recognized Jeff Bauer for his community leadership in changing the way our community works with sexually exploited youth; and presented a Youth Leadership award to ReaShondra Walker who is making a difference in the community through her leadership and involvement at The Link.

We were honored to have Senator Amy Klobuchar, Minneapolis Police Department Inspector Mike Sullivan and former board member Gene Scapanski share their stories of how The Link's programming has influenced their work and gained their support throughout the years. Thank you for helping to make this a fantastic evening of celebration.



Youth from The Link programs shared their talents throughout the evening



The ConneQT Collaborative community partners worked together to increase access to appropriate services for LGBTQ youth!

Project Live Out Loud

15 UNITS OF RAPID REHOUSING FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AGES 18-24

In 2016, The Link opened Project Live Out Loud (PLOL). PLOL is a culturally specific Rapid Rehousing program for youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBTQ). As many as 40% of youth experiencing homelessness nationally identify as LGBTQ.

PLOL provides housing for youth through regular market rate apartments in the Twin Cities and provides landlords with rental subsidies. The program also provides culturally specific services, support groups and activities in addition to trauma informed supportive services that include case management, life skills education, assistance with education and employment, connections to mental health and chemical dependency treatment, connections to health care services, as well as leadership development opportunities.

"I was a resident of Lincoln Place when I got my job as a youth advisor on the PLOL Youth Advisory Committee. Knowing that my experiences are valued enough to help design a program for other youth who are going through similar situation as me, makes me feel really good. To be able to help other youth get services and housing, and get paid for it, is an opportunity I never thought would be possible."

-PLOL Youth Advisor



The VOICE committee gathers to develop and evaluate the POWER program.

POWER Program

POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN OF EVERY RACE

The POWER Program is housed within the Juvenile Justice Division at The Link. POWER is first of its kind gender-responsive and youth designed program in partnership with Hennepin County Probation. The goal of the program is to prevent further justice-involvement and to create an environment where young women can build relationships with one another, seek and give support, and discuss relevant topics around Restorative Justice, Family and Community Connections, Education and Economic Self-Sufficiency, and Health and Wellness. The POWER Program is co-designed by a Youth Advisory Committee, called the VOICE (Vision of Intelligence Creating Equity) Committee.

POWER consists of 12 weeks of individual case management focusing on the goals and needs of each youth, such as finding a job, improving school attendance, repairing or developing relationships with family or peers, and connecting to hobbies or other positive activities. Programming also includes a group portion which meets once a week for 8 weeks. Group topics are informed by the VOICE Committee. Each group includes a time for content, providing an opportunity to learn and grow together, a time to process and digest and make meaning out of experiences, and a time for community partners to come in as guests to share their expertise and resources; these efforts ultimately expand the network of caring adults surrounding our young women.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

THE LINK IS A YOUTH & ADULT LED AGENCY

Three of The Link's Voice Advisory committee members who helped design the POWER program.

The Link is an innovative provider of youth leadership, employing over 54 youth. We hire youth who have experience with the juvenile justice system, homelessness, and trafficking to lead through personal experience. These youth design and oversee programming, participate in strategic planning, training, hiring staff, and the research and evaluation of our programs.

Youth Leadership Committees include:

- Survivor Advisory Committee
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- Project Live Out Loud Advisory Committee
- VOICE Advisory Committee
- Suburban Rapid Rehousing Advisory Committee



VOLUNTEERS

In March of 2016, over 30 volunteers in the community worked together to provide housing items for two houses at The Link. Over the course of two days, our amazing volunteers made houses into a home for 11 youth!

- Volunteers contributed over 5,400 hours to the youth and programming at The Link in 2016
- The Link had 168 trained volunteers working on-site and in the community providing activities and opportunities to youth including: art therapy, community meals, yoga and more!
- The Link also had over \$120,000 of in-kind donations provided through community drives. These generous donations helped supply our youth with hygiene items, clothing, school supplies, holiday gifts etc.
- Thousands of dollars were contributed through volunteers employer matching programs.

To learn more about volunteering at The Link visit www.thelinkmn.org/volunteer.

WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.



STAFF

WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOUTH

The Link has over 160 employees offering high quality services throughout our 19 programs.

2016 Staffing Highlights:

James Lewis was promoted to the Housing and Homeless Youth Services Division Director.

Kelsey Krzyzanowski and Brett Goodsen were awarded the 'Founders Awards' for excellence in youth service at our All Staff Retreat.

11 staff celebrated 2 years at The Link.

3 staff celebrated 5 years at The Link.

The Link launched staff leadership committees: the Senior committee (staff development), MOSAIC committee (diversity) and Development Committee.



.85 cents of every dollar directly supports programming

2016 FINANCIAL STATS

\$161,136

donated by
individual donors

\$128,269

in-kind
donations made



\$157,415
raised through
fundraising events

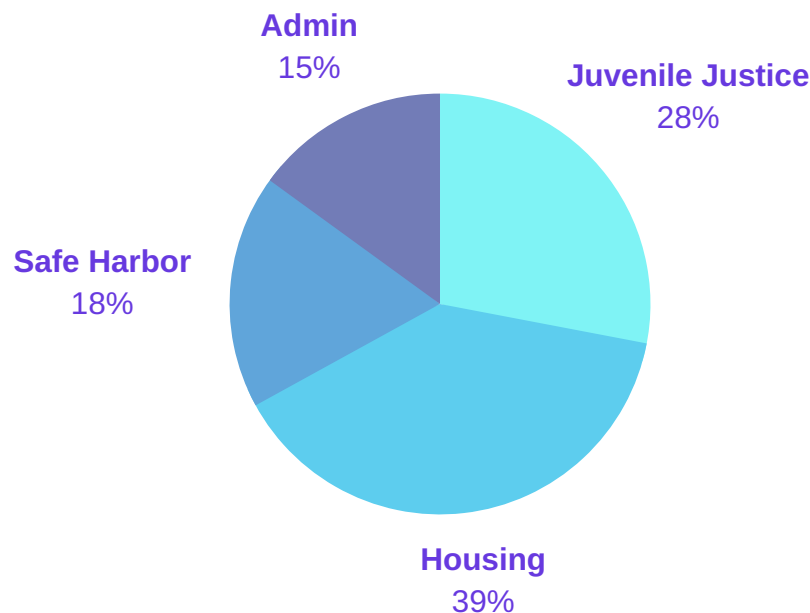
5.49 million in
government
funding

\$124,578

is the value of the
time volunteered
in 2016

\$514,056 from corporations and
foundations

TOTAL EXPENSES



FINANCES

ASSETS		REVENUES AND SUPPORT		2015	2016
Current Assets		Contributions			
Total cash and cash equivalents	216,301	Individuals	108,538	161,136	
Accounts receivable	44,351	Corporations and Foundations	444,267	514,056	
Contracts and grants receivable	914,759	Total contributions	552,805	675,192	
Prepaid expenses	66,634				
Total current assets	1,242,045	Government Contracts			
Property and equipment	1,576,754	Federal (HUD)	599,593	763,022	
Less accumulated depreciation	395,214	State of Minnesota	1,370,133	1,064,223	
Other assets	2,268	Hennepin County	1,697,501	2,163,700	
Total assets	2,425,853	Ramsey County	136,476	135,460	
		Dakota County	114,444	145,661	
		Hennepin and Dakota- MHGA	175,000	175,000	
		City of Minneapolis	262,167	268,924	
		GRH	622,530	702,043	
		Intermediate District 287	31,200	17,680	
		Scott County	0	55,132	
		Total Government Contracts	5,009,044	5,490,845	
		Interest and dividend income	44	8	
		In-kind contributions	100,715	128,269	
		Events, net of direct expenses	109,441	157,415	
		Other	5,755	8,829	
		Total revenues and support	5,777,804	6,460,558	
		EXPENSES			
		Program services	5,036,557	5,490,528	
		Management and general	557,473	699,132	
		Marketing, development and communications	160,921	261,251	
		Total expenses	5,754,951	6,450,911	
		Change in net assets	22,853	9,647	
		Net assets, beginning	1,207,492	1,230,345	
		Net assets, ending	1,230,345	1,239,992	
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Current position of long-term debt	37,126				
Line of credit	200,000				
Capital lease payable, current position	1,733				
Accounts payable	155,156				
Accrued interest, payroll, and other	379,319				
Deferred revenue	50,000				
Total current liabilities	823,334				
Capital lease payable, net of current portion	1,230				
Long-term debt, net of current portion	361,297				
Total liabilities	1,185,861				
Net assets					
Unrestricted	967,952				
Temporarily restricted	272,040				
Total net assets	1,239,992				
Total liabilities and net assets	2,425,853				

Because of increased funding and individual support, The Link was able to serve over 2,100 youth and families this year. The Link provided housing to over 200 youth, served over 41 victims of sex trafficking, and provided services to over 1,500 youth in the juvenile justice system!



OUR VISION
IS A
COMMUNITY
SUPPORTING
ALL YOUTH IN
HAVING
EQUITABLE
ACCESS AND
OPPORTUNITY.



MAKE AN IMPACT



Shop and make a difference. Add The Link as your Amazon Smile charity or check out our urgent needs wishlist at www.thelinkmn.org/volunteer.



Support youth and families in The Link programming through a financial contribution. Visit www.thelinkmn.org/donate to learn more.



Volunteer: become a trained volunteer to offer groups and experiences to youth in our programs or organize a donation drive to support our youth with basic needs items.

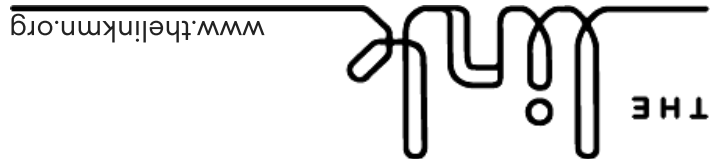


Connect with The Link on social media @thelinkmn on Facebook and twitter to learn more about programs, urgent needs and success stories.



Join us at one of our events! Learn more about upcoming events at thelinkmn.org/events.

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2016



The Link
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