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

31 youth received emergency shelter and supportive services at Passageways

35 families participated in the Young Families Program

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
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
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.
JASON A. MARVIN
   Chair
   Boechermann Grafstrom & Mayer, LLC

AMANDA NUSZ
   Secretary
   Target Corporation

MEDARIA ARRADONDO
   Board Member
   Minneapolis Police Department

EMMETT CAROLAN
   Board Member
   Slumberland Furniture

WILLIAM FLYNN
   Board Member
   Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP

KENDRA J. GARRETT, Ph.D.
   Board Member
   St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas

JAMAR HARDY
   Board Member
   Edina Realty

KRISTA HATCHER
   Board Member
   Fredrickson & Byron, P.A.

BRETT NELSON
   Board Member
   Keller Williams Classic Realty

SETH NIELSEN
   Board Member
   Robins Kaplan, LLP

SARAH PERRON
   Board Member
   Knock Inc.

ANGELA THOMPSON
   Board Member
   Target Corporation

REASHONDRA WALKER
   Board Member
   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.
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.
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
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.
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.
2016 FINANCIAL STATS

$161,136 donated by individual donors

$128,269 in-kind donations made

$157,415 raised through fundraising events

$514,056 from corporations and foundations

$124,578 is the value of the time volunteered in 2016

TOTAL EXPENSES

- Housing: 39%
- Juvenile Justice: 28%
- Safe Harbor: 18%
- Admin: 15%
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!

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### FINANCES

#### ASSETS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>Contracts and grants receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>Total current assets</td>
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<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>Total assets</td>
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#### LIABILITIES

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<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>Line of credit</td>
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<td>Capital lease payable, current position</td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued interest, payroll, and other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<td>Total current liabilities</td>
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<td>Capital lease payable, net of current portion</td>
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<td>Long-term debt, net of current portion</td>
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<td>Total liabilities</td>
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#### REVENUES AND SUPPORT

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>108,538</td>
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<td>Corporations and Foundations</td>
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<td>Total contributions</td>
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<td>Government Contracts</td>
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<td>State of Minnesota</td>
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<td>Hennepin County</td>
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<td>Ramsey County</td>
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<td>Dakota County</td>
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<td>145,661</td>
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<td>Hennepin and Dakota- MHGA</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>175,000</td>
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<td>City of Minneapolis</td>
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<td>268,924</td>
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<td>GRH</td>
<td>622,530</td>
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<td>Intermediate District 287</td>
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<td>17,680</td>
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<td>Scott County</td>
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<td>Total Government Contracts</td>
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<td>Interest and dividend income</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>In-kind contributions</td>
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<td>Events, net of direct expenses</td>
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<td>157,415</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>8,829</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenues and support</td>
<td>5,777,804</td>
<td>6,460,558</td>
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#### EXPENSES

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Program services</td>
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<td>5,490,528</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Marketing, development and communications</td>
<td>160,921</td>
<td>261,251</td>
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<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>5,754,951</td>
<td>6,450,911</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
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<td>9,647</td>
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<td>Net assets, beginning</td>
<td>1,207,492</td>
<td>1,230,345</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, ending</td>
<td>1,230,345</td>
<td>1,239,992</td>
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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.