



Dear Friends of The Link,

I am writing this letter with great appreciation and thanks for all of your support throughout 2017 and beyond! We truly could not do the work of supporting young people in our community without all of the great partnerships and help from you!

2017 was another great year of continued growth at The Link. We successfully opened the Suburban Rapid Rehousing program, our new housing program for youth experiencing homelessness in the suburbs. This new program provides 30 units of housing to help youth struggling with homelessness in Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Carver, and Washington counties. As we know, youth experiencing homelessness live both within our urban and suburban communities and we at The Link are fortunate to be able to have programming for youth regardless of where they live in the Twin Cities and the suburbs.

At The Link, as well as across the country, we see the impacts that racism, homophobia, and transphobia have in terms of the disproportionate rates of LGBTQ and youth of color who are experiencing homelessness. We are proud to provide culturally specific programming at The Link for African American families as well as LGBTQ youth. We continue to work hard every day to directly help youth and families impacted by poverty, many forms of oppression and social injustice while we work towards larger systemic change within our local and national communities to end sex trafficking, homelessness and to reform our juvenile justice systems.

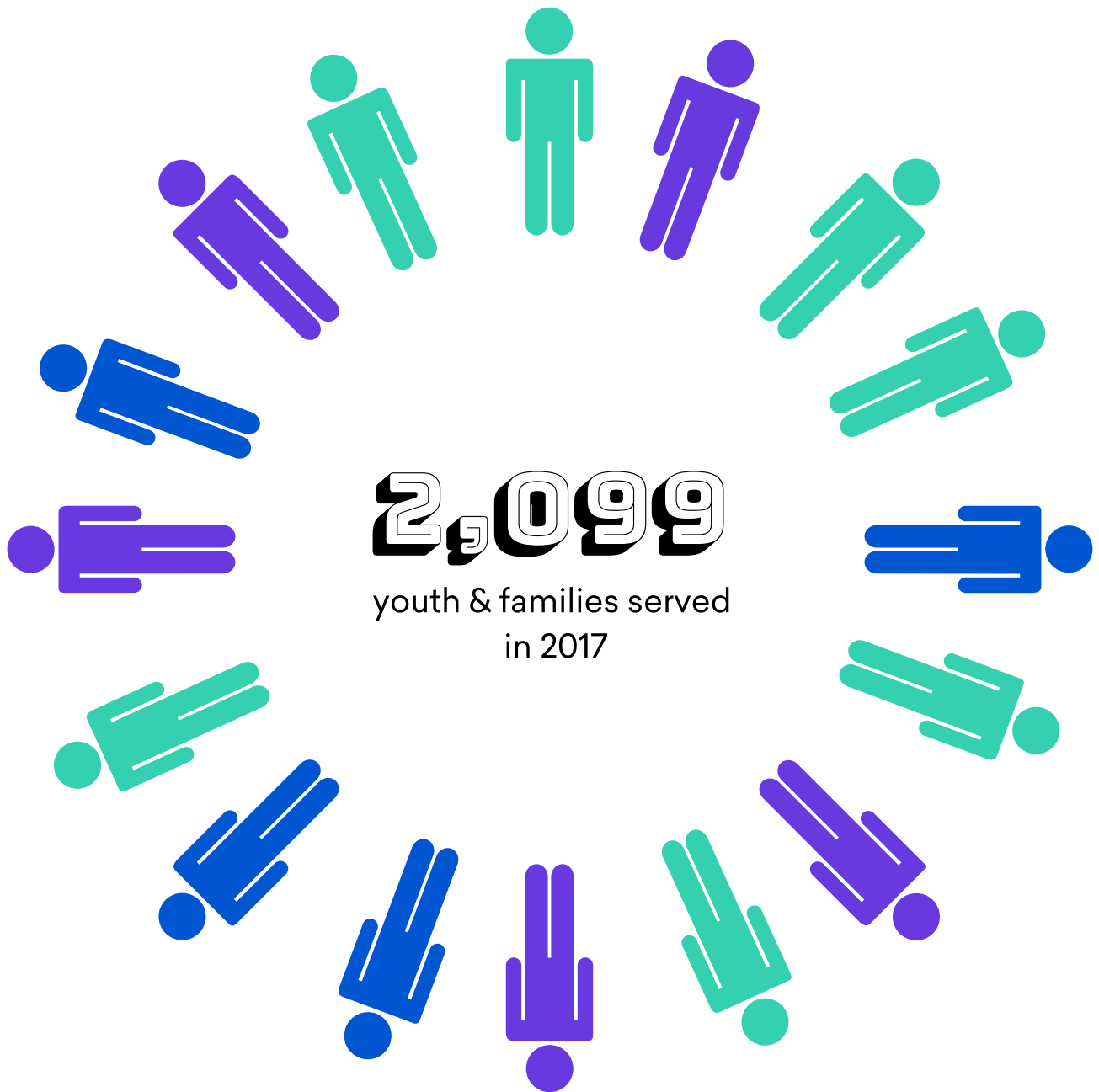
There is nothing more honorable than being a part of an organization that is led by youth with lived experience, along with incredible adults who are so dedicated to serving our community. Over the next year, The Link will expand our youth leadership training opportunities and continue to look for ways we can grow our impact on the community.

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.

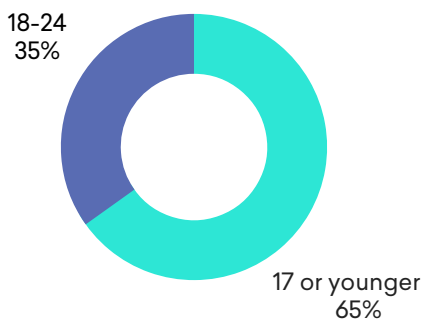
Sincerely,

Beth Holger-Ambrose

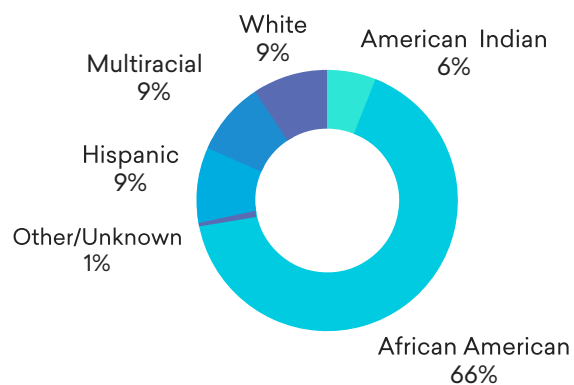
Beth Holger-Ambrose
Executive Director



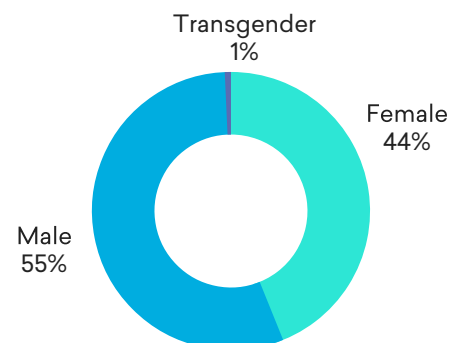
AGE



RACE



GENDER



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

262

youth transitioned out of homelessness by obtaining housing through The Link's programming

44

young families transitioned out of homelessness through our Young Families program

67

male youth involved in the juvenile justice system were empowered to create positive goals for themselves while participating in our Evening Reporting Center programs

979

youth received strength-based support from our Juvenile Supervision Center in Hennepin County

55

female youth developed confidence and worked towards personal goals in our POWER programming

30

youth experiencing homelessness were housed in under 7 months in our new Suburban Rapid Rehousing program

22

LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness gained stable housing through our culturally specific Project Live Out Loud program

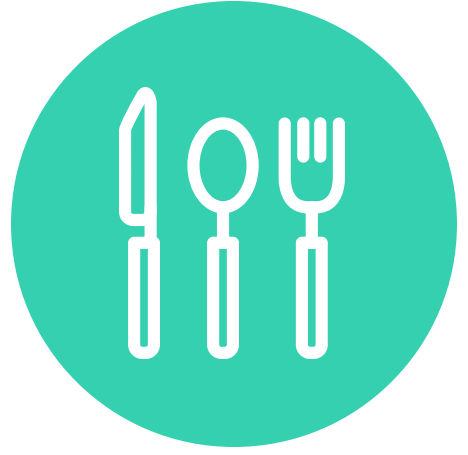
131

sexually exploited or trafficked youth were provided crisis intervention, emergency shelter, housing and/or supportive services



16,745

HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT PROVIDED



Every youth and family throughout The Link's 19 programs have access to a case manager. Case managers support each youth they work with by helping them achieve their goals around stable housing, education, mental health, physical health, employment and connecting to resources in their community.

SUBURBAN RAPID REHOUSING

The Link opened the Suburban Rapid Rehousing Program in March of 2017 to respond to the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness in our suburban communities.

The program houses 30 youth ages 18 through 24 who are identified as long-term homeless and are living either in emergency shelter or in a place not fit for human habitation. Youth are able to transition quickly from the streets and emergency shelter into stable housing and can stay in the program for up to two years. Youth are housed in market-rate apartments in the community. Youth sign a lease, which allows them to build rental history, and The Link provides the landlord with rental subsidies. Once youth have a safe and secure home, they are able to work closely with case managers on more long-term goals which include gaining the practical skills required to live independently.

Programming helps youth to address the trauma of homelessness while also addressing concerns related to mental health, chemical dependency, and other barriers that contributed to their homelessness. The program provides intensive case management that assures youth are connected to community resources, enrolled in health insurance, and are engaged in activities that will further their education and increase their income. Working holistically with youth experiencing homelessness allows the youth to develop the protective factors that will help them maintain housing permanency in the future and heal from the trauma they have experienced on the streets.



**32 YOUTH SECURED
HOUSING IN 2017**

"Monica learned from an early age how to be independent and take care of herself; at times that meant staying with an abusive boyfriend to have a place to sleep, even sleeping outside or in a shelter in St. Paul as long as she could get to work. Through her weekly meetings with her housing case manager, Monica has established stability with housing and increased skills with managing her finances. Her case manager has been the source of consistent support for Monica through these tremendous transitions towards independence and stability. She was a timid and apprehensive young person when she first began working with The Link, and now has self-assured confidence that she has what it takes to be successful as she enters into adulthood."

-SRRH Client Story



THE SUBURBAN RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM (SRRH) HELPS YOUTH WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TRANSITION QUICKLY FROM THE STREETS AND EMERGENCY SHELTERS TO STABLE HOUSING. THE PROGRAM SERVES THE FIVE COUNTY SUBURBAN METRO AREA INCLUDING: ANOKA, CARVER, DAKOTA, SCOTT AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES.

VOLUNTEERS

MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE



6,400+ hours
donated in 2017



285+
volunteers



\$154,496 value of
donated hours

2017 was an exciting year for our Volunteer Program. We expanded monthly Social Impact opportunities in November, offering monthly opportunities hosted by The Link for individuals and groups to participate in activities such as frozen meal prep and kit packing.

This year we also saw an increase in corporate collaboration including employee volunteers, monthly donors, employee matching, and grants.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed- attended social impact opportunities, hosted donation drives, cooked frozen meals, provided community meals and so much more. Because of you, we are able to offer much needed items and opportunities to our youth and families.

Looking for ways to volunteer? Visit www.thelinkmn.org/volunteer.



" I thought my case manager would help me with housing. I didn't know that they would help me with food, clothing, stuff for my apartment, and so many other things.

I really appreciate this place."

- youth at The Link

FINANCIALS

2017

FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR THE LINK



\$252,858

donated by individual donors



.85 cents of every dollar directly supports programming



\$210,201 raised through fundraising events



\$175,333
in-kind donations made

\$6,102,177

million in government funding



\$154,496

is the value of the time volunteered

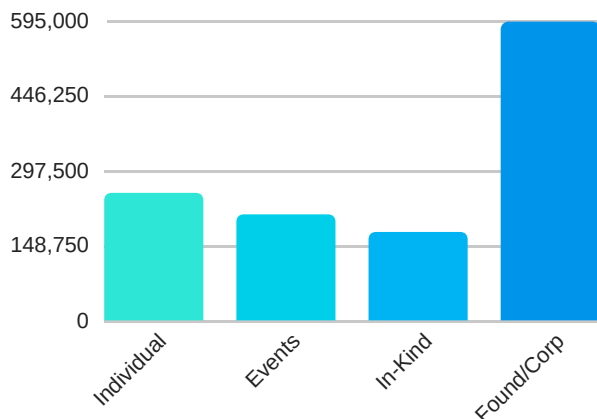


\$592,497

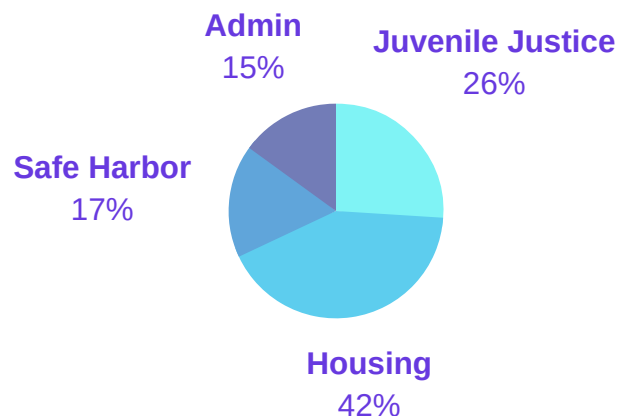
 from corporations & foundations

TOTAL REVENUE

\$6.1 million raised from Government Grants



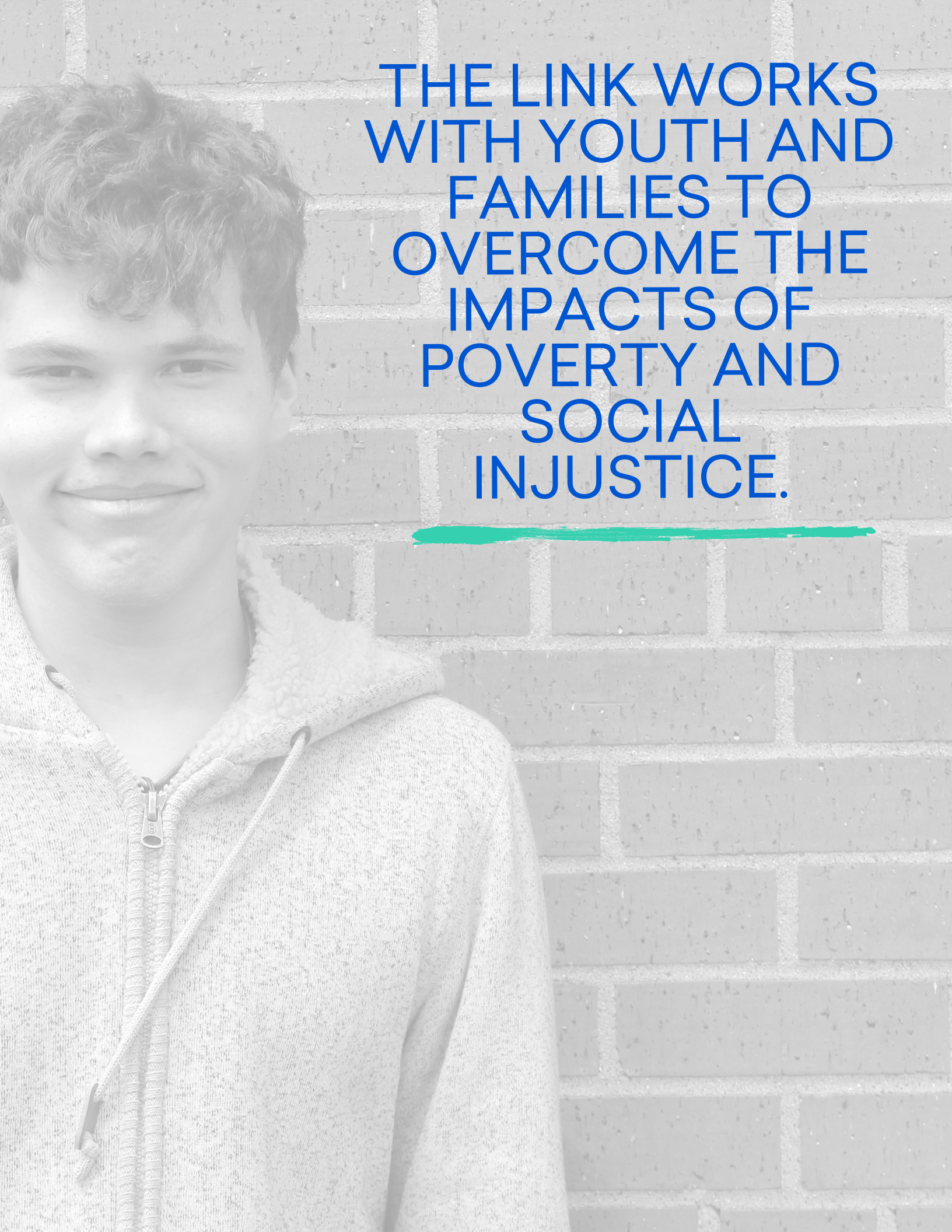
TOTAL EXPENSES



FINANCIALS

ASSETS		REVENUES AND SUPPORT		2016	2017
Current Assets		Contributions			
Total cash and cash equivalents	357,627	Individuals		161,136	252,858
Accounts receivable	41,474	Corporations and Foundations		514,056	592,497
Contracts and grants receivable	850,003	Total Contributions		675,192	845,355
Prepaid expenses	105,362				
Total current assets	1,354,466	Government Contracts			
Property and equipment	1,577,049	Federal (HUD)		763,022	1,387,866
Less accumulated depreciation	437,321	State of Minnesota		1,064,223	1,172,847
Other Assets	500	Hennepin County		2,163,700	2,127,776
Total assets	2,494,694	Ramsey County		135,460	56,986
		Dakota County		145,661	145,540
		Hennepin and Dakota-MHGA		175,000	175,252
		City of Minneapolis		268,924	263,759
		GRH		702,043	756,443
		Intermediate District 287		17,680	0
		Scott County		55,132	15,708
		Total Government Contracts		5,490,845	6,102,177
		Interest and dividend income		8	68
		In-kind contributions		128,269	175,333
		Events, net of direct expenses		157,415	210,201
		Other		8,829	88,411
		Total revenues and support		6,460,558	7,421,545
LIABILITIES		EXPENSES			
Current liabilities		Program services		5,490,528	6,276,871
Current positions of long-term debt	38,466	Management and general		699,132	726,193
Line of credit	300,000	Marketing, development and communications		261,251	385,400
Capital lease payable, current position	3,078	Total expenses		6,450,911	7,388,464
Accounts payable	158,706				
Accrued interest, payroll and other	387,711				
Deferred revenue	5,000				
Total current liabilities	892,961				
		Change in net assets		9,647	33,081
Capital lease payable, net of current portion	5,541				
Long-term debt, net of current portion	323,119	Net assts, beginning		1,230,345	1,239,992
Total liabilities	1,221,621	Net assets, ending		1,239,992	1,273,073
Net assets					
Unrestricted	978,082				
Temporarily restricted	294,991				
Total net assets	1,273,073				
Total liabilities and net assets	2,494,694				





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