"I never felt so welcomed and comfortable as I do here at Lindquist, I can be 100% me. Staff and residents are accepting of me being a part of the LGBTQ community, and they encouraged me to start a support group for youth in the LGBTQ community right here at Lindquist."

Rachael, Lindquist Apartments

"I quit drugs, stopped skipping school and set goals. I am fully capable of everything and can do anything. I am a people person."

Stefon, School Matters

"This is an actual place where sexually exploited youth have somewhere to go instead of going back out on the streets. This is a place that stops that. Being here is like family, and I love it."

Mycah, Passageways

Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program, part of The Link’s new Safe Harbor programming for sex trafficked youth, was designed largely by youth on its Survivor Advisory Committee. The committee chose the name of the program, colors and names of the rooms, and has been instrumental in developing the new Safe Harbor programming.
Since its inception, The Link has continued to reach some of our community’s most vulnerable youth to build the skills and resiliency they need to thrive. Within just the last five years, The Link has provided stable housing for more than 600 homeless youth and young families, prevented 6,500 youth from being sent to detention or out-of-home placement, helped 1,300 middle and high school students get reengaged in school, and supported 44 young sex trafficking victims with new Safe Harbor programming.

During 2014, The Link made significant positive growth in its programming and administration to make an even bigger impact. Through its Housing and Homeless Services, Juvenile Justice and Safe Harbor Divisions, The Link continues to provide evidence-based, quality-focused and client-driven programs.

In this report, you will learn more about The Link’s innovative programming, the youth we are committed to serving in our community, what we have accomplished together, and how you can get involved.
Dear Community Partners and Supporters of The Link,

The year of 2014 was quite an amazing year for The Link and the larger community of Minnesota. There were historic wins in our state for youth experiencing homelessness and sex trafficking, and within The Link, we made an incredible amount of positive growth in our program and administration.

On August 1, 2014, the state of Minnesota’s Safe Harbor Law and No Wrong Door Response went into effect, which was a huge victory for youth who have been sex trafficked. This new law recognizes that youth who have been sex trafficked are the victims and resilient survivors of a crime instead of “prostitutes” and perpetrators of crime and provides a new state-wide comprehensive response of services, shelter and housing. There were also increases to the Minnesota’s Homeless Youth Act, which we all have been working on since 2001 in support of the full continuum of services for youth-homeless prevention services, street outreach, drop-in centers, emergency shelter and supportive housing. These both represent incredible progress in the fight for social justice for youth and young families experiencing homelessness as well as youth who have been trafficked--but we are not done yet!

The Link, in coordination with the new Safe Harbor Law and No Wrong Door Response, opened Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program on September 15th, 2014. Passageways provides specialized shelter, housing and supportive services for sex trafficked youth along with the West Metro Regional Navigator and Supportive Services. The Link simultaneously responded to community’s need for housing for young families experiencing homelessness by increasing our young families housing programs and securing funding to add additional early childhood supportive services for the children in this program. Last, but not least, The Link (at the request of parents we work with) created a culturally specific program for African American parents of youth coming into our Juvenile Supervision Center or School Matters Programs that offers support and parenting education programming.

Throughout 2014, The Link remained focused on providing high quality youth and family driven programming. As we are approaching our 25th anniversary in 2016 we are extremely thankful and honored that we have been able to grow while staying in the mission and vision of our Founders and the genuine needs of the youth and families we support.

Thank you all so much for your support in 2014 and beyond. We truly could not do this work without you!

Sincerely,

Beth Holger-Ambrose
Beth Holger-Ambrose
Executive Director
MISSION

The Link’s mission is to build a supportive community network that links youth and their families to their inner strength through life skills, education, advocacy, supportive housing, and a dynamic network of social services to transform lives.

VISION

Our vision is for a future in which supportive communities nurture confident, happy and secure youth.

HISTORY

The Link was founded in 1991 by former Vikings players Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed, who started the organization with the help of the late Leonard Lindquist in the North Minneapolis public housing projects with the goal of providing at-risk and homeless youth within the neighborhood alternatives to getting involved in crime or being victimized by crime. The Link has evolved into a multi-service program provider with housing and supportive services for homeless youth and young families, juvenile justice programming and housing, shelter and programming for victims of sex trafficking.

GOALS of all programming at The Link:

- Youth sustain a positive lifestyle, through realizing their innate health and value
- Youth are self-reliant and advocate for themselves
- Youth have meaningful connections to adults, peers, family and community.

VALUES which allow The Link to meet these goals:

- Intentional, respectful relationships that foster change
- Innovative and strategic thinking
- Integrity and accountability
- Community collaboration

Executive Team
Beth Holger-Ambrose
Executive Director

Jen Becker
Development Director

Lois Clark
Finance Director

Elizabeth St. Clair
Human Resources Director

Quisha Stewart
Safe Harbor Division Director

Kate Tobin
Senior Juvenile Justice Division Director

Erin Wixsten
Housing and Homeless Services Division Director

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Founder and former MN Viking
Tom Nordyke
Noordijk, Inc.
Oscar Reed
Founder and former MN Viking
Gene Scapanski
Educational Consultant

The Link’s founders, Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed
QUICK FACTS

Who we serve
1,977 youth served in 2014 by all three Divisions (Juvenile Justice, Housing and Homeless Services, Safe Harbor)
100% of youth and young families served are low income
87.8% of youth and young families served identify as African American, Native American, Hispanic, Southeast Asian or Multi-Racial
15 young families participated in Young Families Programming
44 sex trafficking survivors served by Safe Harbor Division

Successes
3,457 supportive services provided to youth and young families
162 youth experiencing homelessness moved into stable housing
36 young families experiencing homelessness moved into stable housing
95% of the homeless youth and young families served by our five housing programs transitioned out of the programs successfully into their own stable housing
1,990 youth were provided with programming through the Juvenile Supervision Center and avoided detention (88% of whom did not have a return visit/pick up by law enforcement)
58 parents received culturally specific supportive services and parenting skills building through our Parent Support Program

86% of youth in the School Matters Program were enrolled in school
Within the first four months of Passageways being open, 26 sex trafficked youth were not sent to juvenile detention but to a safe place where they received supportive services

2013 Budget
$4.36 million

The Link Leadership
13 Board of Directors
4 Agency-Wide Advisory Board Members
6 Youth Advisory Board Members (called the Insights Committee)
6 Youth Survivor Advisory Committee Members (Specific to the Safe Harbor Division)

The Link Staff and Volunteers
53 Full Time Staff
44 Part Time and On Call Staff
80 Volunteers

Program Site Locations
Downtown and North Minneapolis
Hennepin County Suburbs: Richfield, Brooklyn Park
Dakota County: Eagan, Apple Valley
Scott/Carver County: Prior Lake
Scattered Site Housing Programs based in North Minneapolis but serve the 7-county Metro Area
WHAT’S NEW

- Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program for Sex Trafficked Youth
- The West Metro Regional Navigator Program (a partnership with Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center)
- Safe Harbor Supportive Services Programs—Aftercare & Outreach, Mental Health Therapy and Family Reunification Counseling
- Expansion of the Young Families Rapid Rehousing Program
- Partner in Hennepin County’s Office to End Homelessness: Stable Young Families Initiative
- The Parent Support Program
- Formalized Volunteer Program with a Full Time Volunteer Coordinator
- Internal Human Resources Director (formally outsourced)
- Marketing & Development Associate Position
- Accounting Specialist Position
- The Mural Project
- The Link’s Community Training Curriculum on Best Practices for Identifying and Working with Sexually Exploited and Homeless Youth
- Further youth leadership and career advancement opportunities through the Insights Committee, Survivor Advisory Committee and Community Trainings
JUVENILE JUSTICE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Juvenile Supervision Center and Evening Reporting Center are two distinct programs that offer advocacy, alternatives and healthy group activities for youth in the juvenile justice system or at risk of arrest. School Matters provides case management and academic support for students at risk of dropping out of school due to high absenteeism.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Evening Reporting Center (ERC)
- 81% of youth completed goals in their action plans
- 83% improved relationships with adults
- 83% improved relationships with their peers
- 94% connected with one or more pro-social activities and have participated at least three times

Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC)
- 99% of youth refrained from physical violence
- 97% refrained from verbal violence
- 97% reported that they felt safe at the JSC
- 99% of families reported feeling safe at the JSC

School Matters
- 62% of youth referred to the program actively engaged in School Matters program
- 86% enrolled in school
- 47% improved school attendance
- 100% developed and maintained relationships with positive, caring adults

Positive youth development activities are an important part of The Link’s Juvenile Justice programming. Activities in 2014 included trips to the Minnesota Zoo, Vertical Endeavors, Farmer’s Market, Corn Maze, and more.
HOUSING

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Link’s Housing and Homeless Services Division consists of five housing programs. All of The Link’s housing programs provide housing, case management, life skills education, connections to education and employment, physical and mental health care support and positive youth development activities.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES
During the 2014 calendar year, The Link’s housing programs served a combined total of 162 youth-headed households. Of these, 126 were single unaccompanied youth and 36 were parenting youth with children. Of the total households, the following outcomes were accomplished in 2014:

- 74% of youth increased job readiness skills
- 91% increased skills to live independently
- 95% moved into stable housing upon exit
- 68% increased academic achievement

Young Families
12 families participated in program outings
All families that needed supplies were provided with diapers, clothing and toys
5 families were assisted in finding high quality child care
1 family was assisted in getting special ed services for their child

In 2014, The Link relocated scattered site housing staff and programming to the Lindquist Apartments location. This central location better serves scattered site youth in combination with Lindquist programming.
SAFE HARBOR

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Programs include Passageways Shelter and Housing Program, the West Metro Regional Navigator position, and Mental Health, Family Reunification, and Aftercare & Outreach Programs. All of The Link’s Safe Harbor Programs are in partnership with the state of Minnesota and Hennepin County’s Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door Response, and are grounded in the best practices for working with sexually exploited youth.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES
The West Metro Regional Navigator provided mobile case management, crisis intervention and services to 36 youth within the first three months of operation in 2014 (October through December).

The first emergency shelter and housing program in the state for sex trafficked girls, boys and transgender youth (Passageways) was opened on 9/15/14.

Within the first four months of Passageways being open 26 sex trafficked youth were not sent to juvenile detention but to a safe place where they received supportive services.

8 youth were provided with leadership and employment experience and advancement through the Survivor Advisory Committee.

57% of the youth in the Passageways Housing Program gained stable employment and sources of income while in the program and 43% enrolled in post secondary education.

The Link’s Survivor Advisory Committee was integral in shaping the new program and has played a major role in educating the public about sex trafficking. Pictured here is the ribbon cutting ceremony for Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program on September 10, 2014.
## The Link’s ’14 Finances

### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2014

#### Assets
- Current Assets:
  - Total cash and cash equivalents: $204,881
  - Accounts receivable: 12,093
  - Contracts and grants receivable: 627,664
  - Contributions receivable: 25,000
  - Prepaid expenses: 46,489
  - Total current assets: 916,127
- Property and equipment: 1,432,450
  - Less accumulated depreciation: 294,206
  - Other assets: 3,540
- Total assets: 2,057,911

#### Liabilities
- Current Liabilities:
  - Current position of long-term debt: 81,092
  - Capital lease payable, current position: 2,973
  - Accounts payable: 132,342
  - Accrued interest, payroll, and other: 252,608
  - Deferred revenue: 5,035
  - Total current liabilities: 474,050
- Capital lease payable, net of current portion: 5,843
- Long-term debt, net of current portion: 370,526
- Total Liabilities: 850,419

#### Net Assets
- Net assets:
  - Unrestricted: 955,497
  - Temporarily restricted: 251,995
- Total net assets: 1,207,492

#### Total Liabilities and Net Assets
- Total liabilities and net assets: $2,057,911

### Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for Years Ended December 31

#### Revenues and Support
- Contributions:
  - Individuals: $87,477
  - Corporations and Foundations: 389,404
  - Total contributions: 476,881
- Government contracts:
  - Federal (HUD): 603,553
  - State of Minnesota: 477,864
  - Hennepin County: 1,316,954
  - Ramsey County: 32,130
  - Dakota County: 102,000
  - Hennepin and Dakota County - MHFA: 175,000
  - City of Minneapolis: 250,423
  - GRH: 596,577
  - Intermediate District 287: 28,600
  - Other government funding (SHIF): 30,000
  - Total government contracts: 3,613,101

#### Expenses
- Program services:
  - Total expenses: 3,706,061
- Management and general:
  - Total expenses: 3,050,087
- Marketing, development and communications:
  - Total expenses: 3,350,144

#### Change in Net Assets
- Net assets, beginning: 1,119,349
- Net assets, ending: 1,207,492

### Total Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Matters</td>
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</table>
THANK YOU DONORS!

The Link thanks the following supporters for their generous contributions:

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

$100,000
- Otto Bremer Foundation

$50,000
- Charlson Foundation
- Family Housing Fund
- Women’s Foundation of Minnesota

$25,000
- Epiphany Legacy Fund of the Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA
- Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP
- Target Foundation
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation

$10,000
- American Mortgage and Equity Consultants
- Rob & Barb Schaller Charitable Fund
- Venture Bank

$5,000
- Berean Baptist Church
- Edina Realty City Lakes
- Fredrikson & Byron Foundation
- NorthstarMLS
- US Bancorp Community Development Corporation
- Wells Foundation
- Whole Foods Market
- Womack Family Foundation

$1,000 and under
- 24 Restore
- 7-Sigma
- AAA Movers
- Ace Midwest Moving and Storage
- Advent United Methodist Church
- All American Title Co.
- Allina Health System
- American Portfolio Mortgage
- Ameriprise Financial
- Anchor Bank
- Ancona Title & Escrow
- Apple Valley Community of Christ
- Aster Pictures Corporation
- Chubb & Son
- Color Me Mine
- Community Housing Corporation
- Cordeca Designs
- Cross of Peace Lutheran Church
- Crowley, White, Helmer & Sevig

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$501 - $1,000
- Anonymous
- Patricia M. Brandstetter and David Hoven
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- Steven Rall
- Dennis Stallman
- Sharon Sylvester
- Mark Ulfers

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- Michael and Debra Zenk

$1,000+
- Anonymous
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- Shirley Lindquist
- John Long
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- Amanda and Ruben Nusz
- Kristin and Calvin Robertson
- Corey Sauer

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- Amanda and Ruben Nusz
- Kristin and Calvin Robertson
- Corey Sauer

The Link thanks the following supporters for their generous contributions:
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Kelsey Krzyzanowski
Michelle Lackey Olsen
Annamarie Lanning
Sarah Larsen
Morgan Larson
Mary Larson
Andrea Lee
Lynda Lee
Sally and Stacy Lewis
Jessica Lewis
Molly Lewis
Linda Locke
Robert Lueben
Robert Mack
Ben Malin
Tria Mann
Ben Marlett and Pam Sukhum
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Berean Baptist Church
Buffalo Wild Wings Eagan
CAP Agency
Cedar Cultural Center
Cedarvale Lanes
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
Color Me Mine
Community of Christ Church
Cumulus
Dakota Electric Association
Dickey’s Barbecue Pit
Dixon Golf
Droolin’ Moose
Easter Lutheran Church
Edgewater Hotel & Waterpark
EFI
Elko Speedway
Excelsior Brewing Company, LLC
Fitger’s Brewhouse
Gertens
Glensheen
Grace Church
Grace Lutheran Church of Apple Valley
Great Lakes Aquarium
Guthrie Theater
HUGE improv theater
Jake’s City Grill
Joe’s Sporting Goods
Just Between Friends
KNOCK, Inc.
The LIFT Community
Lions Tap Family Restaurant
Living Joy Lutheran Church
Luther Memorial Church
Mall of America
Mary Mother of the Church
Mill City Museum
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Minnesota Renaissance Festival
Minnesota Sword Club
Minnesota Timberwolves Fastbreak Foundation
Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Zoo
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Northrop
Patterson Dental
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Potbelly Sandwich Shop - Eagan
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Rafter’s
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Shanghai Bistro
Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Smashburger Golden Valley
Solos Pizza Cafe
St. Paul Saints Baseball Club
Subway Restaurant - Eagan
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Rebecca Johnson
Greg Jones
Karen Kitchel
Karen Kitchel
Greg Jones
Rebecca Johnson
Greg Jones
Karen Kitchel
FUNDING AND AWARENESS

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

• The number of individual donors nearly doubled (220 in 2013 to 408 in 2014)
• The quantity of in-kind donations more than doubled (60 in 2013 to 158 in 2014)
• The number of corporate and foundation giving partners increased by 18
• Event funding increased by $28,467* 
• More than 80 volunteers donated their time
• New staff hired included a full-time Development and Marketing Associate and a Volunteer Coordinator
• Social media presence grew - 150% growth on Twitter and nearly 200% on Facebook
• Staff raised nearly $12,000 for The Link during Give to the Max Day
• Two vans were donated for use in The Link’s housing programs

* Total 2013 event funding includes a biennial event.

DONATE TODAY!
Make a fully tax-deductible donation at www.TheLinkMN.org/donate

TOTAL REVENUE and SUPPORT
The Link
Main Offices
1210 Glenwood Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55405

www.TheLinkMN.org - (612) 871-0748

On the front: Dreaming, Linking, Transforming - Mural, Summer 2014
Lead Muralists: Marilyn Lindstrom and Francis Yellow
Muralists: RaeShonda Walker, Marquise Bailey, Lisa Pendergast, Greg Gandy, Marcel Martinez and Bharat Kelley

Photo: Mark Peterson, 2014