

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

THE *link*

"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."

Myciah, 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



The Link's founders, Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed

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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Venture Bank

Jason A. Marvin, Treasurer
Boeckermann, Graftstrom
& Mayer

Amanda Nusz, Secretary
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Jim Marshall
Founder and former MN
Viking

Tom Nordyke
Noordijk, Inc.

Oscar Reed
Founder and former MN
Viking

Gene Scapanski
Educational Consultant

YEAR IN REVIEW



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)

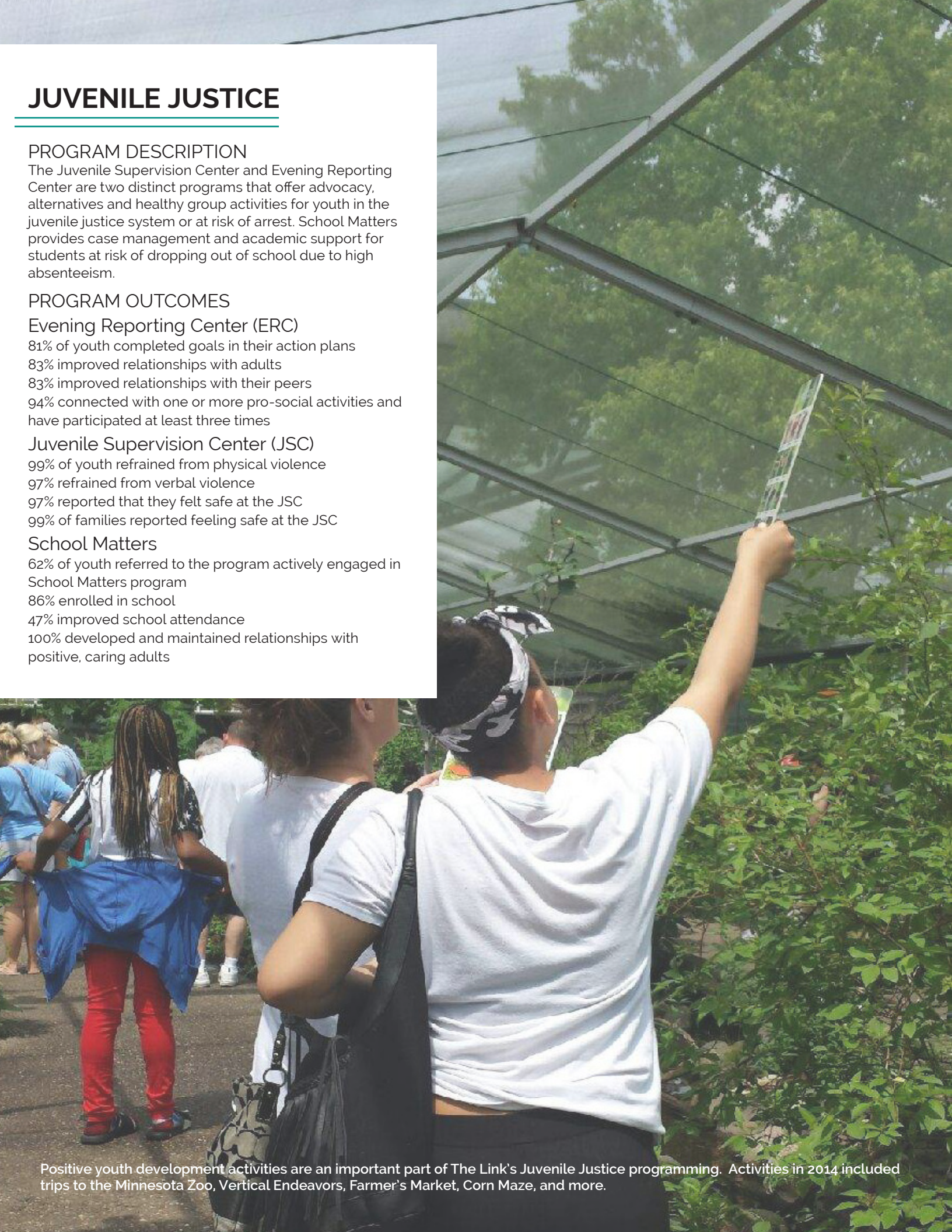
- 81% of youth completed goals in their action plans
- 83% improved relationships with adults
- 83% improved relationships with their peers
- 94% connected with one or more pro-social activities and have participated at least three times

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 roll 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

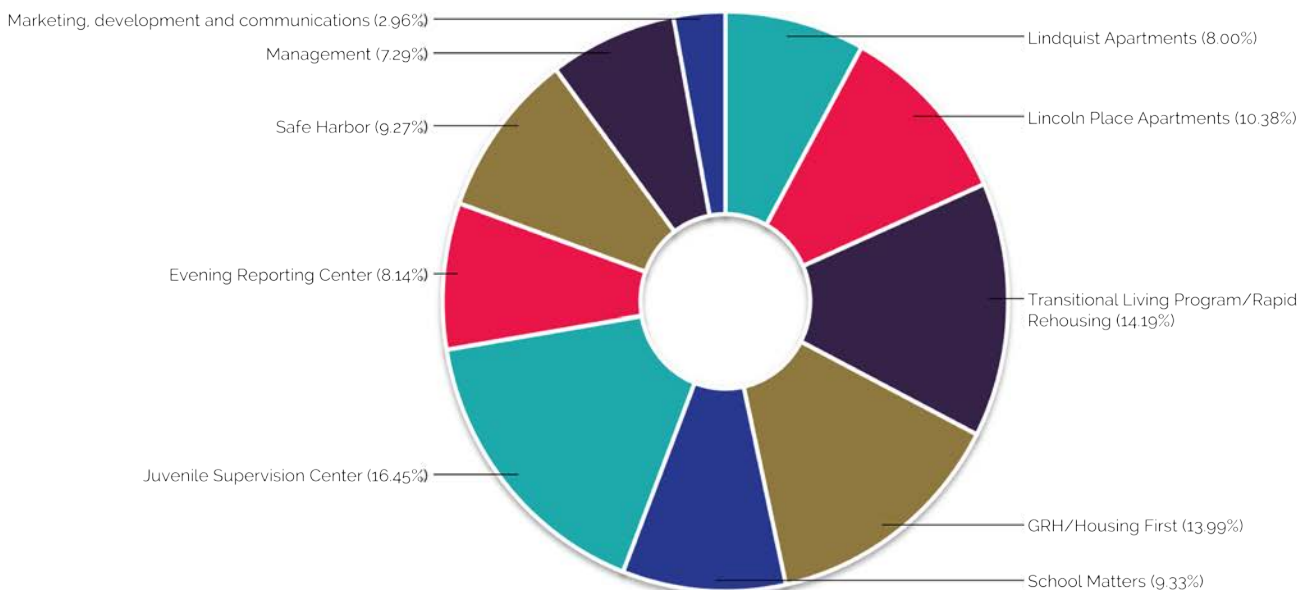
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of December 31, 2014

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:	
Unrestricted	955,497
Temporarily restricted	251,995
Total net assets	1,207,492
Total liabilities and net assets	\$2,057,911

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS for years ended December 31

REVENUES AND SUPPORT	2014	2013
Contributions		
Individuals	\$87,477	\$40,455
Corporations and Foundations	389,404	175,812
Total contributions	476,881	216,267
Government contracts		
Federal (HUD)	603,553	472,400
State of Minnesota	477,864	0
Hennepin County	1,316,954	1,274,166
Ramsey County	32,130	0
Dakota County	102,000	100,000
Hennepin and Dakota County - MHFA	175,000	175,000
City of Minneapolis	250,423	190,000
GRH	596,577	736,165
Intermediate District 287	28,600	0
Other government funding (SHIF)	30,000	30,000
Total government contracts	3,613,101	2,977,731
Interest and dividend income	381	679
In-kind contributions	69,210	82,792
Events, net of direct expenses	52,475	44,009
Other	4,997	10,274
Total revenues and support	4,217,045	3,331,752
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$3,706,061	3,050,087
Management and general	300,827	333,461
Marketing, development and communications	122,014	121,596
Total expenses	4,128,902	3,505,144
Change in net assets	88,143	(173,392)
Net assets, beginning	1,119,349	1,292,741
Net assets, ending	1,207,492	1,119,349

TOTAL EXPENSES



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
Grace Church
Harrison Neighborhood Association
Keller Williams Classic Realty
Northwest
Liberty Title
Marketplace Home Mortgage, LLC
Minneapolis Area Association of
Realtors Foundation
The Nash Foundation
Open Your Heart to the Hungry and
Homeless
RBC Wealth Management
Jim & Yvonne Sexton Family
Foundation
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

Dakota Electric Association
DCA Title
DesMarais Real Estate Team
Dodge of Burnsville
Eagan Lioness Club
Eagan Rotary Community Service
Foundation
Easter Lutheran Church
Edick Valuation Services
First American Title
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Graco
Harbor Community Church
Home Federal Savings Bank
Keller Williams
Keller Williams Classic Realty
Keller Williams Classic Realty NW
Keller Williams Integrity NW
Keller Williams Integrity Realty
Keller Williams Preferred Realty
Keller Williams Premier Realty
Keller Williams Premier Realty Lake
Minnetonka
Keller Williams Realty Edina
Keller Williams Realty Integrity Lakes
Klein Bank
LeaderOne Financial
Markve & Zweifel
McKesson Corporation
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Names, Numbers & More
Nations Title Agency of Minnesota
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans,
Northern Dakota County Chapter
NorthstarMLS
Ortmann Real Estate Group Inc
Our Lady of the Lake Church
Partners Title
Prior Lake Optimist Club
Prior Lake Rotary Club
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Under the Radar Foundation
Waterstone Mortgage
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
York Solutions LLC

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Kristin and Calvin Robertson
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Dennis Stallman
Sharon Sylvester
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James Wyman
Judy Zehentner

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Clifton Aichinger
Cyril Amoa
Travis Anderson
Patty Andreasen
Anonymous
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De'Andre Avaloz
Joao Ayres
Leigh Bailey
Lois Baker
Jan Baurr
Josephine Baynton
Mary and Bruce Bean
Jacqueline Beaulieu
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Jen Becker and John Peterson
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Travis Kiel
Judy Kindseth
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Mary Larson
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Lynda Lee
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Jessica Lewis
Molly Lewis
Linda Locke
Robert Lueben
Robert Mack
Ben Malin
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Elmo and Marilyn Martin
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IN-KIND

Abdallah Candies & Gifts
Advent United Methodist Church
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
MN Pro Paintball
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
North House Folk School
Northrop
Patterson Dental
Peace Coffee
Potbelly Sandwich Shop - Eagan
Prior Lake High School Junior Optimist
ProSign Branding Solutions
Qdoba Mexican Grill
Quilters of Becketwood
Rafters
River Valley YMCA
Rob & Barb Schaller Charitable Fund
Rosenberg Center
Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium
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
Summit Brewing Company
Surly Brewing Co
The Firm
The Original Red's Savoy Pizza Toro
Trader Joe's
Two Bettys Green Cleaning Service
Valleyfair
Wine and Canvas
YMCA Eagan
Anonymous
Charline Babu
Jacqueline Beaulieu
Melissa Bergstrom
Allie Bertilrud
Marilyn and Thomas Bollinger
Ricki and Thomas Breiter
Grace Brown
Cullen Burns
Maureen Cuddigan
Penelope and Charles Curry
Barbara Drucker
Mike Ebel
Barb Edson
Janice Elvin
Amelia Emery
Kim Engle-Lockhart
Sharon Englund
Rachel Fausch
Kathy and Terrence Faust
Dan Foster
Deanna and Scott Francis
Melissa Gilchrist
NaDyne Glidden
Lisa Hagen
Krissy Hansen
Lisa Harvey
Jennifer Hayes
Diane Heinecke
Amy and Mark Herendeen
Jillien Higgins
Pamela Hoffman
Jane Jacobson
Molly Jacobson
Lynne and Ed Janke
MacKenzie Johnson
Rebecca Johnson
Greg Jones
Karen Kitchel

Jill Kufrin
 Kathy Lafond
 Connie Lane Lindeen
 Jason Lardy
 Jessica Lecy
 Colleen and Mark Leonard
 Margo Leslie
 Bernardene Lindquist
 Melissa Machlitt
 Brandy Madison
 Carol Maier
 Joan Mailander
 Terry Merritt
 Theresa Morgan
 Radhika Nelluvaya
 Brett and Tovi Nelson
 Kellen Nins
 Anne and Wayne Olson
 Helen Olson
 Kris Palfe
 Thomas Pedersen
 Suzanne Peters
 Gail and Donald Post
 Shawn Reupke
 Kim Robertson
 Angela Roen
 Kelly Romsdahl
 Mark and Jordann Rylance
 Carolyn Sampson
 Barb Schaller
 James and Martha Shaw
 Naomi Sime
 Carol Ann Smith
 Todd Sorensen
 Robin Steger
 Sue and James Turgeon
 Sue Wendel
 Rebecca and Patrick Westerberg
 Molly Willson Lahr
 April Zimmerman

To correct the listing of your name, please contact Lindsay Halleckson at 612-677-2523 or lhalleckson@thelinkmn.org.

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

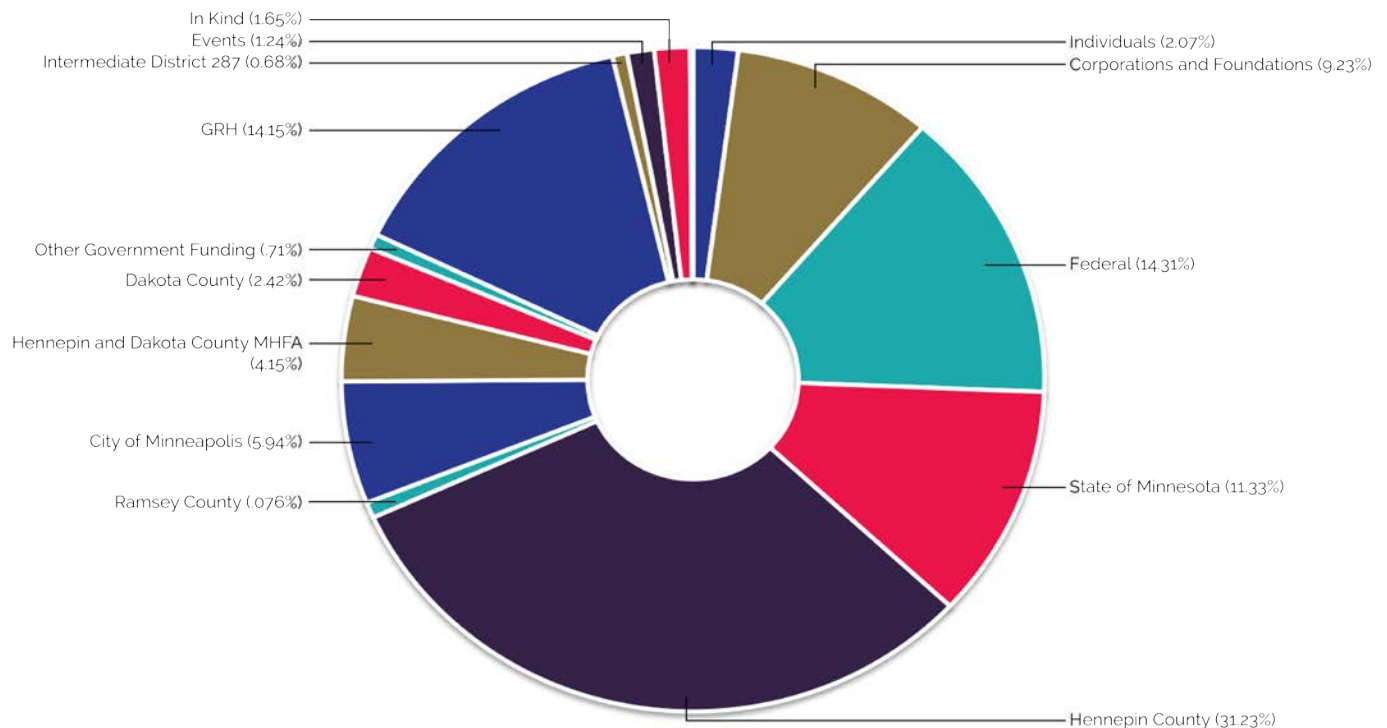
* Total 2013 event funding includes a biennial event.

DONATE TODAY!

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

Out of every \$1.00 donated to The Link, \$.90 goes directly to youth programming

TOTAL REVENUE and SUPPORT





**The Link
Main Offices**

1210 Glenwood Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55405

www.TheLinkMN.org

[@thelinkmn](https://twitter.com/thelinkmn)

[/thelinkmn](https://facebook.com/thelinkmn)



On the front: Dreaming, Linking, Transforming - Mural, Summer 2014

Lead Muralists: Marilyn Lindstrom and Francis Yellow

Muralists: RaeShondra Walker, Marquise Bailey, Lisa Pendergast, Greg Gandy, Marcel Martinez and Bharat Kelley

Photo: Mark Peterson, 2014