

PROUD TO SUPPORT LGBTQIA+ YOUTH

(lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, +)

At The Link, LGBTQIA+ youth can access safe and stable housing where they are accepted and celebrated for who they are.

While *all* of The Link's programs serve and support LGBTQIA+ youth, The Link created Project Live Out Loud (PLOL), a culturally-specific rapid rehousing program, to address the significant inequities, distinct challenges, and increased risks that LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness face.

1 in 4 youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQIA+ and The Link's PLOL program continues to grow to meet the increasing needs of youth in our community. Last year, we secured an apartment building where **all of the units are dedicated** to The Link's PLOL youth. It is a space where young people have a safe place to call home, can build community, and truly live out loud without fear or prejudice.

3 Reasons Why PLOL's New Building Is Special:



The Comfort Kitten

Miss Marsha P. Johnson (named by PLOL youth) lives onsite at the apartment building and is shining in her role as a comfort kitten and valuable member of the PLOL community.

Sara Cassidy, Program Manager shared, "A young person recently came into the staff office extremely upset about homophobic actions by a relative. They laid down on the floor and played with Marsha for about 20 minutes and were able to calm down and go back to their apartment."

Onsite Therapy

Youth in PLOL have access to a culturally specific therapist who is onsite at the new

building twice a week. Youth can schedule appointments or drop by for check-ins, ensuring they have access to the mental health support they need in a safe and affirming environment.



New Community Room

The PLOL apartment building has a dedicated Community Room that serves as a hub for youth to connect, relax, and engage in group activities. Youth chose the furniture, artwork, colors, and the layout, truly making the space their own. We are grateful to the dedicated volunteers from the 3M Gives Team for making this space possible!

Donate to Support **LGBTQIA+** Youth



DONATE this Pride Month

Support LGBTQIA+ Youth All Year

Support LGBTQIA+ youth with a one-time donation. Your generosity helps provide

Join The Link's monthly giving program, The Champions Club, to support

safe housing, mental health support, and essential services for young people at The Link! Comment "Proud to Support LGBTQIA+ Youth" with your donation and we'll send you Link/Pride temporary tattoos to rock at Pride this year!

LGBTQIA+ youth not just during Pride month, but year round! Comment "Proud to Support LGBTQIA+ Youth" with your donation and we'll throw in extra pride themed items with your welcome gift for joining the club!

GET INVOLVED

Upcoming Community Volunteer Opportunity



Join us in making individual frozen meals for youth at The Link! In addition to increasing food security, home-cooked meals provide comfort, a sense of normalcy, and serve as a reminder to our youth that they are cared for and valued. We hope to see you at this family friendly event!

Tuesday, June, 18th
5pm - 7pm
Grace Lutheran Church of Apple Valley

[Sign Up to Attend](#)

RACE TO 100

CALLING 14 CHAMPIONS TO BUILD BRIGHT FUTURES FOR YOUTH

Champions Club Members

The Link is excited to highlight the **Race to 100**, aiming to grow our Champions Club to 100+ dedicated monthly donors! Our Champions Club members are crucial in supporting The Link's mission to end youth homelessness, sexual exploitation/trafficking, and involvement in unjust systems.

Why Join?

- **Impact:** Your monthly donation provides reliable and consistent support, ensuring our programs can continue to serve youth and young families without interruption.

- **Recognition:** As a member, you'll receive a welcome gift, exclusive updates, invitations to special events, and be featured as a leader in this movement on our upcoming website redesign!
- **Community:** Join a community of advocates working to end social injustices that affect youth. Your support helps create a safer, more equitable future for everyone.

We currently have **86** amazing members and need 14 more to reach our initial goal. Help us create lasting change by becoming a Champion today!

\$5/month

\$10/month

\$25/month

A HUGE thank you to our eight new Champions who have joined the club and gotten us one step closer to the finish line!

HAPPENINGS

Visit The Link at Community Events in June



Juneteenth West Broadway Block Party

Sunday, June 16th, West Broadway from Lyndale to Emerson Avenue North

Watch the parade at 10am (look for The Link's youth staff marching in the parade!) and then visit our booth from 12-6pm. Stop by and meet our youth and adult staff to play games and win fun Link swag!



Twin Cities Pride Festival

June 28th, *NEW this year: Youth Night*
June 29th-30th, Loring Park

Stop by The Link's booth at Twin Cities Pride to meet youth and adult staff, learn more about The Link's work with LGBTQIA+ youth, and take home Link swag! Find The Link in space #333 near the Flower Garden in the yellow zone.

The Link | www.thelinkmn.org



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