

THE

link

Key Considerations in Developing LGBTQ
Friendly Services & Housing:
Culturally Specific Rapid Rehousing-
The Link's Project Live Out Loud Program

The Link's Mission and Vision

Mission:

The Link works with youth and families to restore the impacts of poverty and social injustice.

Vision:

A community supporting all youth and families in having equitable access and opportunity.

Copyright 2019 The Link

The Link's 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

Copyright 2019 The Link



The Link's Overview

- A non-religious organization founded in 1991 in north Minneapolis by Vikings Jim Marshall, Oscar Reed
- \$8.6 million Annual Operating Budget, 164 Staff and 21 Programs in three aligning areas: Juvenile Justice Alternative Programs, Housing & Supportive Services for Youth and Young Families Experiencing Homelessness and Emergency Shelter, Housing and Supportive Services for Youth who have experienced Sex Trafficking
- Youth and Adult Led Organization: Traditional Board of Directors and 5 Youth Advisory Boards

Copyright 2019 The Link

Agency Level-The Link's Example

Youth and Adult Led Organization:

Putting youth with lived experience into leadership and decision making roles along with adults.

The Link's Traditional Board Members include youth with lived experience.

The Link has five Youth Advisory Committees.

Copyright 2017 The Link

Agency Level-The Link's Example

Youth Advisory Committees Role:

- ❑ Youth Co-Designed Programs
- ❑ Youth help Interview & Hire Staff
- ❑ Internal & External Trainings
- ❑ Agency Strategic Planning
- ❑ Outreach & Marketing
- ❑ Projects
- ❑ Opportunities for Civic Engagement, Social & Racial Justice Involvement
- ❑ Opportunities for Career Development & Further Employment at The Link
- ❑ Leadership Retreat & Mentorship

Copyright 2017 The Link

Why do we need culturally specific programming?

- ❑ 6,000 Youth on any Given Night are Experiencing Homelessness-2,500 are age 17 or younger and 3,500 are between the ages of 18 and 24
- ❑ Alarming Disparities: 57% of homeless youth in the metro area are African American versus 8% of the general Minnesota youth population, 4% are American Indian and 20-40% identify as LGBTQ.
- ❑ Culturally specific programming can meet specific needs, have specialized empowerment groups and activities and can connect with communities in a different way than generalized programs can.
- ❑ Youth want it!

Wilder Research Center, 2016 and Multiple Sources for LGBTQ Stat

Copyright 2019 The Link

Hard Truth...

- 20-40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ v. 3-5% of the general youth population.
- Decrease in age of "coming out" leads youth to increased risk of becoming homelessness....(1970's the age was 19-24 v. today average age is 13.4)
- 1 out of every 4 youth that come out will either be disowned or kicked out by their family.

Copyright 2017 The Link



housing and homeless services division



Copyright 2019 The Link

PROGRAMS



- Lindquist Apartments
- Lincoln Place Apartments
- Rapid Rehousing
- Suburban Rapid Rehousing
- Housing First
- The Young Families Program
- C.O.R.E. Drop In Resource Center
- Dakota County Coordinate Entry
- The Street Outreach Program
- Project Live Out Loud (P.L.O.L.)

New Housing Programs

- Carin Housing
- County Involved Youth Pilot “Periscope” and the Peris Housing Program
- Northside Homeless Prevention Program

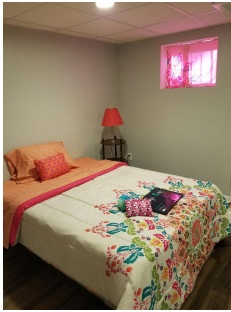
Copyright 2019 The Link

Site Based:



Copyright 2019 The Link

Scattered Site: Houses & Apartments



Copyright 2019 The Link



Project Live Out Loud

- ❑ Started with a Youth's Request
- ❑ Created the PLOL Advisory Committee
- ❑ One Year Later: Project Live Out Loud was opened- the first Rapid Rehousing Program culturally specific for LGBTQ youth in Minnesota

Copyright 2019 The Link

Project Live Out Loud

- ❑ PLOL Advisory Committee Designed and Founded the Program
- ❑ Submitted Grants (ED and Development Staff) with Youth Program Design
- ❑ Received Funding from Individual Donor first-then HUD, United Way-ARISE and our state's Homeless Youth Act

Copyright 2019 The Link

Project Live Out Loud

- 15 Unit Scattered Site Rapid Rehousing Program
- Staff
- Program Supplies and Case Management
- Employment (Goodwill Easter Seals Partnership) and True Colors Fellowships
- Culturally Specific Groups: Fem Group, Mens/Boi Group, Sobriety Group
- LGBTQ Resource Guide
- Local and National Events: PRIDE, LGBTQ Taskforce and True Colors

Copyright 2019 The Link



2018 Outcomes-Does it work?

- Average length of stay is 12 months
- 100% (18/18) maintained the terms of their lease while in the program
- 78% (7/9) Exits secured stable housing at program exit
- 100% (18/18) of youth increased their income

Copyright 2019 The Link

2018 Outcomes-Does it work?

- 100% (18/18) made progress on their self identified goals in their Individual Service Plan (ISP)
- 100% increased their employment and/or education
- 100% improved their health and wellness

Copyright 2019 The Link







Project Live Out Loud-What's Next?

- Site Based Housing
- Drop-In Center
- Calendar of Events
- Additional Peer Led Groups

Copyright 2019 The Link







Contact Information

- The Link:

Beth Holger
 Executive Director
 bholger@thelinkmn.org

 - www.thelinkmn.org
- Facebook:
 - www.facebook.com/thelinkmn
- Twitter:
 - [@thelinkmn](https://twitter.com/thelinkmn)

Copyright 2019 The Link

Additional Resources

- National Alliance to End Homelessness
 □ HUD
- National Network 4 Youth
 □ DHHS-Family & Youth Services Bureau
- Harm Reduction Coalition
 □ Corporation for Supportive Housing

Copyright 2019 The Link

THANK YOU!

Copyright 2019 The Link
