



REPORT TO OUR community 2022

Supporting and
empowering young
people on their
journey to
self-reliance

Dear Friends,

2022 brought new leadership, innovative and responsive new programs, and a continued commitment to uplifting youth voices. Youth came to us with increased needs, and YouthLink's community of care met those needs in 2022 as it has for over 45 years. This community (you included) provided a foundation for the youth you will read about in these pages (and over 1,600 others) to change the course of their lives. Thank you for being with us in this work.

56%

more youth
than in 2021

40%

more visits
than in 2021

2

new leaders:
Rich Melzer &
Shennika Sudduth



“ YouthLink wraps light and promising resources around every young person who comes through our doors. We are doing this work in ways that reflect nourishment, love, and dedication to the youth we serve. My role as CEO is to ensure that our staff are cared for and providing the highest quality support, services, and experiences possible for youth experiencing homelessness. Communities around the United States have come dangerously close to accepting homelessness an unsolvable problem. YouthLink, and our supporters, partner organizations, and peers don't take this view. We're collectively and actively working with youth toward solutions. ”

Rich Melzer
Chief Executive Officer, YouthLink



“ 2022 was a year of strengthening, strategizing, and successes. My role is to build capacity to serve youth, intentionally meet the needs communicated to us by youth, and celebrate the successes with youth. In 2023, as YouthLink continues to be a catalyst and a “One Stop Shop” for supportive services, we will increase our capacity to support youth that have mental and chemical health needs, decrease the rates of victimization among our clients, give youth an alternative to detention, and eliminate barriers to housing, education, and employment. YouthLink will continue to energize our services and partnerships to offer the best possible resources and services to the youth we serve. ”

Shennika Sudduth
Sr. Director of Program Administration, YouthLink

BIG IMPACT

SYDNEY

YOUTHLINK CLIENT

“ Homelessness is more than “you don’t have a home.” It’s the feelings that come with being homeless. It can be draining because you can’t focus on the situation and how you will do this and how you will do that and try to build yourself for the better.

YouthLink helped me emotionally, mentally, more than just physically.

You have a team, people supporting you, people you can talk to, and you have a place you can be, a safe place where nobody can take that from you. You’re just here. You can be content.

This is a home. Once you get to know these people, and they know your story, and what you’re going through, everybody here looks out for you. They will support you if you want them to help you, and you need that support.”



“ It felt like an uphill battle. It was kind of hard to reach out and ask for any help. As simple as trying to figure out what my next meal would be.

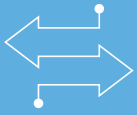
They pushed me to start working on my schooling again, graduating, getting my GED. After that, I’m really hoping to do some community college. Every day I’m just pushing myself to get better and do better for myself, and YouthLink is here to help me do that.

I have so many resources here to help me. YouthLink is a life changer. It’s changed my life since I’ve been with them.”



YOUTHLINK CLIENT

TAYVION



1,629

youth connected with staff and more than a dozen onsite partners



12,170

visits for basic needs and services



16,000

diapers distributed to young parents



2,605

items of clothing, socks, and underwear distributed to youth



37

youth received assistance to stay housed (August-December)

HOUSING



31

new youth moved into long-term housing solutions



80%

of youth housed remained housed after 12 months (average across supportive housing locations)



116

youth in supportive and offsite housing (on average each month)

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Our entire community is facing increased mental health challenges, and when you add in the trauma that comes with being homeless, abused, exploited ... these challenges escalate dramatically. YouthLink listened to young people's needs and responded by bringing culturally responsive mental and chemical health care onsite to break down stigma and increase access.



179

youth engaged with mental and chemical health therapists at the Drop In Center & in our supportive housing units



Tito Catuncan, Mental Health Therapist with Avivo at YouthLink's Drop-In Center



Carl Young, MS with Increasing Life Chances 4 You at Downtown View and Nicollet Square supportive housing locations

Youth experiencing homelessness benefit from drop-in centers with case management services

Each year, more than 7,500 youth ages 16-24 experience homelessness in Minnesota. Many visit drop-in centers staffed by case managers, but little is known about the long-term impact of these centers.

Released in 2022, a landmark 6-year study conducted by Foldes Consulting LLC (in partnership with the University of Minnesota) compared a group of similar youth with young people who accessed the services available at YouthLink.

Study results highlighted the value of the accessible, comprehensive services available through YouthLink's onsite Youth Opportunity Center. It also showed that youth with a substantial relationship with their case manager achieved better outcomes for themselves.

The stories youth share with us and the experiences we witness everyday align with the outcomes of this study.

Youth who have just received keys to their first home, who have been stably housed and employed for many years, and youth taking advantage of YouthLink's healthcare, job placement, and educational resources to enhance their wellbeing and earnings—all of these amazing young people speak to YouthLink's impact on youth homelessness and wellbeing in the metro region.

Thank you for all you do to make this impact possible.

For more detailed results of the study, visit youthlinkmn.org and click on "Research Results" at the top of the screen.

Youth with a substantial relationship with their drop-in center case manager were:



4.2x more likely

to use permanent housing and to stay longer



66% less likely

to be convicted of a felony



2.6x more likely

to earn a GED and have a greater focus on education when case managers worked with them on specific outcomes



EVENTS for YOUTH

Youth accessed critical resources and had fun in 2022, as YouthLink and our partners leveraged the power of events to build community

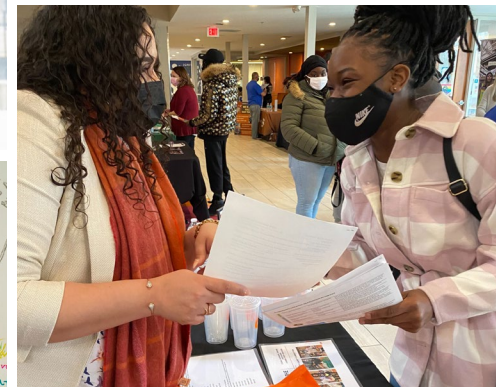
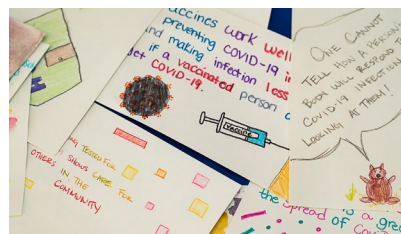
Onsite events in 2022 included a special Black History Month meal (80-85% of youth served annually at YouthLink identify as Black), job and health fairs, holiday gatherings with bountiful food, music, and even a 'gift shop' where every youth could pick out new clothes and toys for themselves, their children, and their families.

Youth Opportunity Center partners included: Goodwill Easter Seals, Hired, Tree Trust, Healthcare for the Homeless, Avivo, Kulture Klub Collaborative, and JK Movement.

Other key partners: University of Minnesota, Child and Teen Check-Ups, Red Door Clinic, Healthcare Reparations, Annex Teen Clinic, Hennepin County Public Library, YMCA, StreetWorks, and Legal Aid.

YouthLink is grateful to all of our supporters, partners, in-kind donors, and volunteers for your help to provide critical resources, healthy and delicious food, and a safe place to have fun for youth who don't always have somewhere safe to go.

THANK YOU!



STAND UP FOR YOUTH BREAKFAST 2022



YouthLink welcomed over 140 supporters to our annual Stand Up for Youth breakfast on September 13, 2022.

^ YouthLink CEO **Rich Melzer** was publicly welcomed into YouthLink's community of supporters.

> The Todd Klingel Star of Hope Award is given each year to an individual who has made a visible and measurable difference for local youth. The 2022 award went to Timberwolves player **Karl Anthony Towns** for raising visibility of youth homelessness through an annual coat drive. Melvin Tennant, recipient of the 2021 award, presented the 2022 award to John Thomas, Timberwolves' VP of Community Engagement, on KAT's behalf.

< **Hassan Qais As-Sidiq** co-founder and now chair of YouthLink's Voices of Youth Advisory Council, spoke to his experience conducting research into how Twin Cities youth-serving organizations are performing from a youth perspective. The study results will be released in 2023.

Thank you to everyone who supported youth to achieve their goals by attending or contributing to this event!



SAVE THE DATE! STAND UP FOR YOUTH 2023 SEPTEMBER 19

PRESENTING SPONSOR



PROJECT SPONSORS



YOUTH SPONSORS





“When experiencing homelessness, of course there are the things that we can physically see and physically go through. But I think we don’t talk about the mental and emotional things we go through because of how little we feel about ourselves. You don’t have any hope that you’re going to get better. You don’t have any hope. I thought about where I would be if I never came to YouthLink so many times and if I’d never met the people I’ve met, the people who’ve poured into me, who’ve pushed me and challenged me. Who’ve had really painful and amazing conversations with me. I honestly don’t know where I would be. But I do know I’m in a better place because I’ve experienced this journey with YouthLink.”

2022 LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Steve Cramer, Chair
President and CEO
Minneapolis
Downtown Council

Chris Garcia,
Vice Chair/Secretary
Principal
Lee & Associates

Brian Johnson,
Treasurer
Executive Director
of Banking
and Business
Development
Choice Bank

Jay Belsito
Civic Engagement
Gender Justice

Alicia Berger
Director, Gas
Operations
Xcel Energy

Jared Brewington
Founder/CEO
Improv Hospitality
Owner

Brick & Brew
Properties, Official
Fried Chicken

Ethan Casson
CEO
Minnesota
Timberwolves
and Lynx

Dan Coleman
Real Estate Agent
First and Third
Properties

Jane Maschka
Partner
Faegre Drinker
Biddle & Reath

Mike Mills
Director of
Construction
Management
Ryan Companies

Quincy Powe
Opportunity Youth
Network Manager
Youthprise
Twin Cities

Jody Rogers
Senior VP &
Chief Human
Resources Officer
SFM Mutual
Insurance

Rachael Scherer
Retired
Scherer Bros
Lumber Board,
Medtronic LLC

Patrick Troup
Vice President of
Student Affairs
Minneapolis
Community and
Technical College

Young Professionals Board

Ilwad Ali
Target

Rhea Barrow
Root Down Realty

Lexi Byler
United States
Senate

Liam Cher Vang
NorthStar Health

Aubrey Hamilton
Allegion

Bea Hanson
St. Thomas
University
School of Law

Annie Jonason
UnitedHealthcare

Lindsey Phillips
Eide Bailly LLP

Devona Thomas
Hennepin County
Government

Voices of Youth Advisory Council

Quincy Powe
2022 Chair

Hassan Qais As-Sidiq
2022 Vice Chair
2023 Chair

RaKi Williams
Treasurer

Clifton
Traxler-Owens
Events Chair

For a full list of YouthLink staff, with photos and short statements about what working to support and resource youth means to us, please visit youthlinkmn.org.

FINANCIALS

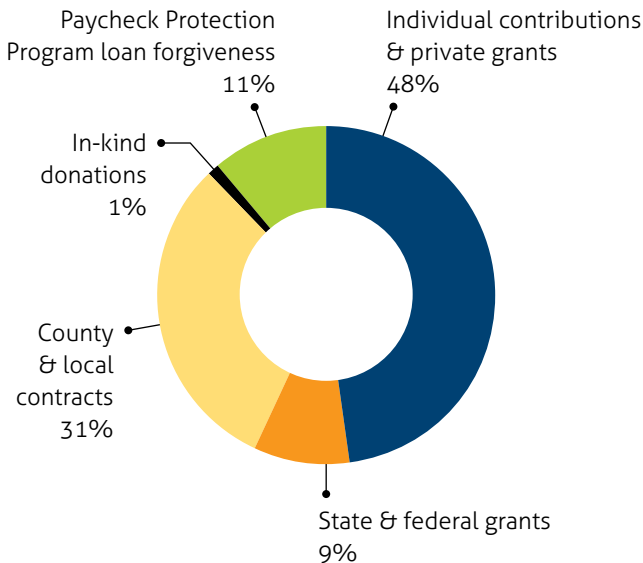
Statement of Revenues & Expenses

October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022

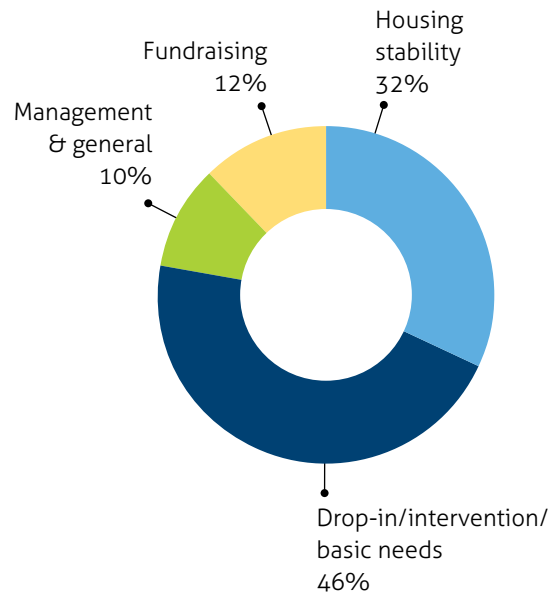
Please contact
Heather Haynes,
Director of
Development,
at 612.252.1226
for YouthLink's
Fiscal Year 2022
audited financial
statement.

Revenue	2022
Individual contributions & private grants	\$ 2,260,613
State and federal grants	439,176
County & local contracts	1,453,534
In-kind donations	55,881
Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness	501,223
Other income	6,748
Total revenue	\$4,717,175
Expenses	2022
Direct program expenses	
Housing stability	\$ 1,515,264
Drop-in/intervention/basic needs	2,202,783
Supporting services	
Management and general	497,415
Fundraising	579,239
Total expenses	\$4,794,701
Total revenue less total expenses	\$ (77,526)

2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses



THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting youth to move from homeless to hopeful, from surviving to thriving. You are helping to change lives, and we are grateful to you.

This report is a snapshot of what you made possible in 2022. Please contact Heather Haynes, Director of Development, at haynes@youthlinkmn.org or (612) 252-1226 if you have questions about the full scope of your impact or would simply like to learn more about YouthLink's work.



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