Empowering Youth

2014 Report to the Community
Youth are on a journey. Homelessness is not their final destination; it’s just a bump in the road.
YouthLink partners with young people on that journey.

We work with young people experiencing homelessness, ages 16-23, in downtown Minneapolis and the greater Twin Cities. YouthLink connects youth to a community of resources and support, guiding them onto pathways where they find healthy, productive, and sustainable futures.

We bring over 40 years of experience to our mission: building healthy relationships with youth and the community to address youths’ urgent needs so that doors of opportunity are opened to futures of empowerment, connectedness, and self-reliance.

The journeys of homeless youth are peppered with ups and downs: barriers to completing their educations, finding employment, obtaining affordable housing, and often overcoming past trauma. But with YouthLink and support from caring people like you, these young people are able to move ahead on their journeys to a brighter future.
Our approach to partnering with young people:

We see positive qualities in the young people who walk through our doors. They all have unique talents and strengths they can draw on to help them in their journeys from homeless to hopeful.

We meet youth where they are and provide an open, safe community for young people from all walks of life.

We recognize that homelessness isn’t permanent for youth. It’s one stop on their journey, and we strive to keep them moving toward stability.

We treat the whole person. It takes more to exit homelessness than simply finding a place to stay. We take mental, physical, and emotional health needs into consideration as well.

We understand that youth have had traumatic experiences that may have resulted in their homelessness. We try to work with them, keeping in mind they may be dealing with issues broader than their housing situations.

We work with youth to make their current situations as safe as possible, step by step, until greater stability and self-reliance is reached.

We build relationships based on trust and mutual respect. Many youth have experienced exploitation, and we work hard to earn their trust and keep it.

We know this isn’t an issue we can conquer on our own, so we embrace collaboration and community building. We turn to the best in their fields, bringing them on site at our innovative Youth Opportunity Center to make sure youth get the services they need.

We provide opportunities for growth. Optimism doesn’t flourish in a bubble. We give youth exposure to new opportunities, broadening their horizons, and building their self-esteem.
Our approach is based on nine evidence-based principles for working with youth. These nine principles emerged from a collaboration between the Otto Bremer Foundation, evaluation expert Dr. Michael Quinn Patton, five other youth-serving organizations, and Dr. Nora F. Murphy of Terraluna Collaborative. Our belief that youth are on a journey—one of the nine principles—shapes our unified approach. Read more about our principles at www.youthlinkmn.org/nine-guiding-principles/
In 2014, YouthLink worked with nearly 2,000 young people. Of these youth, 62% were between the ages of 18-23. These youth are looking for opportunities that will lead them towards stable, productive futures, and away from long-term homelessness. 

*Through 40 years of hands-on experience we know, and research shows, that homeless youth—with appropriate interventions and support—can make meaningful and positive changes in their lives.* Our partnership with young people helps them navigate into a healthier, more productive journey toward adulthood —starting with building their foundation and meeting basic needs, and then reconnecting them with pathways to education, employment, and housing.
By the numbers: Building community

484
the number of unduplicated young people who accessed our daytime services

35,000
the number of hot meals served in our Drop-In Center

68
the percentage of young people able to connect with more than one resource through YouthLink and the Youth Opportunity Center

63
the percentage increase in young people receiving case management services since 2012
Many barriers stand between young people experiencing homelessness and their education. Tuition costs, transportation to classes, and even having a safe place to do homework can all impede a young person’s progress. At YouthLink, we provide support and services for youth working on their education through GED tutoring, re-engaging with high school supports, help with college applications and financial aid planning, transportation to school, and meeting their basic needs so they can focus on bigger things. Our young people know education is the key to their future, and we’re proud to help move them forward.

70
the percentage of jobs in Minnesota that will require at least some postsecondary education by 2018
(Georgetown University Center on Education and the Work Force)

74
the percentage of youth in our housing programs who made progress toward an educational goal

67
the percentage of YouthLink clients surveyed in the Street Outreach Program Data Collection Project that identified educational support as critical to their progress

Scan this code to hear more from youth about their goals post-college
“Thank you very much for your support, encouragement, and help. Without your organization I would not have been able to attend college. In fact, my life would be completely different, and not in a good way.” — Sean, former YouthLink client and third-year college student studying dietics
Whether looking for a first job out of school or trying to make ends meet, employment is an important step on a young person’s journey to stability. Our Workforce and Career Counselor at Nicollet Square, a supportive housing partnership with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, helps create employment opportunities for young people experiencing homelessness. She says, “The truth about employment is that it is a gateway to better things. When a young person has a good experience with employment it increases confidence, and their ability to take new risks and try new things. That new thing might be a higher level of education or a new credential for resume building. Education and multiple credentials then lead to better and more secure employment. Financial stability can be the foundation upon which other growth and healing occurs.”
By the numbers: Employment

74
the percentage of residents who exited YouthLink-supported housing with an increased income level

86
the percentage of young people who received housing through YouthLink services and were employed during 2014

13
the number of Twin Cities businesses that stepped up to the plate and provided employment and internship opportunities to youth through YouthLink and the Youth Opportunity Center

$1,920
the amount that provides a young person with a three-month internship through Nicollet Square’s Work Fast program
YouthLink offers 143 units of supportive housing for young people experiencing homelessness. Our supportive housing programs help youth make a successful transition to independence thanks to our onsite services. Case management, GED tutoring, mental health resources, and other community connections are built into a network of support, which gives young people the independent living skills they’ll rely on for the rest of their lives.

Finding affordable housing options and youth shelters can be difficult for young people, especially those ages 18-23. That’s why, in partnership with Project for Pride in Living and UrbanWorks Architecture, YouthLink plans to build 46 units of permanent supportive housing next to our existing downtown Minneapolis location.
By the numbers: Housing

192
the number of young people housed through YouthLink’s supportive housing programs in 2014

2017
the year when YouthLink’s proposed housing for 18- to 23-year-old youth will be move-in ready

80
the percentage of residents in our housing programs who exited into safe and affordable housing of their own

89
the percentage of residents who implemented plans to address financial, employment, and/or educational goals
Our mission doesn’t stop at empowering young people and helping them advance.

When young people succeed, our entire community benefits.

Research shows that when a young person is reconnected to education, employment, and other community resources it not only benefits the individual, but society as a whole.

The Downtown 100 Youth Initiative and START program (Surviving to Thriving: A Real Transition) are two ways we reconnect youth to pathways forward.

The Downtown 100 Youth Initiative works with a cohort of youth who have the highest arrest rates in downtown Minneapolis. YouthLink — collaborating with the Minneapolis City Attorney’s Office, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District — reconnects these young people with positive support systems, addressing mental health needs, housing instability, and educational and employment options to reduce and eliminate criminal involvement.

Our START program partners with Voyageur Outward Bound School to add confidence building and independent living skills to the mix when reconnecting youth with housing, education, and employment.

Encouraging young people to break old patterns by discovering their strengths helps make the transition from homeless to housed a long-term one.
the percentage decrease in arrest rate among program participants in the Downtown 100 Youth Initiative

$13,900

the annual cost to taxpayers of one 20-year-old disconnected from education and employment pathways

(From the Pohlad Family Foundation 2015 Youth Advancement Study)

100

the percentage of START program youth who accessed mental health services, making them better able to develop independent living skills

87

the percentage of youth in the Downtown 100 Youth Initiative who identified having a more hopeful outlook as a result of the program
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT
Elpis • HIRED • Minneapolis Community and Technical College
• Minneapolis Central Library • Minneapolis Public Schools • Voya

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER PARTNERS

CRISIS, BASIC NEEDS, & DROP-IN
Catholic Charities • The Family Partnership
• Teen PRIDE Program • FamilyWise • Kulture Klub Collaborative • Learning Dreams • Public Allies • Tubman–Youth and Young Adults (YAYA program) • Youth Law Clinic (comprised of employees from Faegre, Baker and Daniels Law Firm, Volunteer Lawyers Network, Minnesota Justice Foundation, and Legal Aid)

HEALTH & WELLNESS
The Aliveness Project • Children’s Dental Services • Headway Emotional Health Services • Healthcare for the Homeless • Hennepin County Child and Teen Check-up • Hennepin County Eligibility Supports • Hennepin County Front Door Homeless Access • Hennepin County Health Care for the Homeless • Hennepin County Red Door Clinic • Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) • MN Visiting Nurses (MVNA) • MNSure Navigation • NorthPoint Health and Wellness • NorthPoint African American Men’s project

HOUSING STABILITY
Aeon • Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative • Hearth Connection • The Link
We’re all about collaborations

YouthLink is the host site for the Youth Opportunity Center — a collaboration of agencies providing services to young people in one location. Having a wide variety of service providers in one location helps break down the barriers young people may face in accessing these services and provides them with a wider range of opportunities and resources.

Collaboration plays an important role when partnering with homeless youth from a principle-based approach. Surrounding youth with a safety net of support and services creates a new community of growth and inclusion. If you’re interested in learning more about potential partnership with YouthLink and the Youth Opportunity Center, visit youthlinkmn.org/youth-opportunity-center.
Donate
Donations of all sizes make a difference. Your investment paves young people’s paths to success.
To make a donation, visit youthlinkmn.org/donations.

Volunteer
You can give your time and talents to young people by helping them study for their GED, providing childcare support, restocking our clothing closet, and more. For information about open volunteer opportunities, visit youthlinkmn.org/get-involved/volunteer.

Learn more
Visit YouthLink’s Drop-In Center for a tour, or invite a speaker to your work, school, or faith community to learn more about what we do, who we help and how you can make a difference. To learn more, visit youthlinkmn.org/get-involved/invite-speaker.
## Financial Highlights

### Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet for year ending September 30, 2014, and nine-month period ending September 30, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$111,483</td>
<td>$32,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of pledges receivable</td>
<td>282,296</td>
<td>396,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>341,419</td>
<td>285,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous receivables</td>
<td>40,276</td>
<td>1,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>79,289</td>
<td>83,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>$854,763</td>
<td>$800,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property and equipment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>202,000</td>
<td>202,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and improvements</td>
<td>3,313,035</td>
<td>3,296,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>527,313</td>
<td>298,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less accumulated depreciation</strong></td>
<td>4,042,348</td>
<td>3,796,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,477,141</td>
<td>1,278,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property and equipment total</strong></td>
<td>2,565,207</td>
<td>2,517,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pledges receivable, net of current portion</strong></td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>56,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,437,470</td>
<td>$3,374,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2013, the Board of Directors authorized a change in YouthLink’s fiscal year end, effectively changing it from December 31 to September 30. In accordance with this change, the statements of activities and change in net assets, cash flows, and functional expenses for the period ended September 30, 2013, cover a period of nine months, whereas those statements cover a full fiscal year for the 2014 financial statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and net assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$ 166,452</td>
<td>$ 121,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal agent payable</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of capital leases payable</td>
<td>63,710</td>
<td>18,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line of credit</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>220,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued: Payroll and payroll taxes</td>
<td>65,448</td>
<td>56,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>56,359</td>
<td>60,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,389</td>
<td>15,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>7,915</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>$ 538,273</td>
<td>$ 492,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital leases payable, net of current portion</td>
<td>99,286</td>
<td>21,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>637,559</td>
<td>513,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>2,158,645</td>
<td>2,348,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>641,266</td>
<td>512,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$ 2,799,911</td>
<td>$ 2,860,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$ 3,437,470</td>
<td>$ 3,374,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statement of Revenues
October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal grants</td>
<td>$359,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Minnesota</td>
<td>421,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin County</td>
<td>920,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>217,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract revenue</td>
<td>250,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual contributions</td>
<td>354,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate/non-profit contributions</td>
<td>116,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation contributions</td>
<td>941,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>12,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>3,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,599,147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2014 Revenue
For year ending September 30, 2014

- **Hennepin County**: 25%
- **State of Minnesota**: 12%
- **Federal grants**: 10%
- **Contract revenue**: 7%
- **Corporate/non-profit contributions**: 6%
- **Foundation contributions**: 26%
- **In-kind/Interest/Other**: <1%
- **United Way**: 3%
- **Individual contributions**: 10%
- **Interest income**: 10%
- **Other income**: 3%

**Total revenue**: $3,599,147
Statement of Expenses
October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014

Expenses

Program expenses
Housing stability $1,221,889
Basic needs/healthcare/education and employment supports $1,333,625
Youth Opportunity Center $179,990
Total program services $2,735,504

Supporting activities
Management and general $556,128
Fundraising $368,325
Total supporting activities $924,453
Total expenses $3,659,957

Change in net assets $(60,809)
Net assets, beginning $2,860,720
Net assets, ending $2,799,911

2014 Expenses
For year ending September 30, 2014

- Housing stability 33%
- Basic needs/healthcare/education and employment supports 36%
- Fundraising 10%
- Youth Opportunity Center 5%
- Management & general 15%
2014 Donors

Your support, in all its forms, is deeply appreciated at YouthLink. From the financial contributions that help us plan for tomorrow, to the practical socks, hats, and hygiene supplies that meet today’s needs, your generosity builds a foundation of independence for young people experiencing homelessness. Thank you!

Foundation Builders and Planned Givers
Foundation Builders donate a minimum of $1,000 per year for three years or more. Planned Givers have included YouthLink in their estate plans.

Tim and Catherine Bicknell
Carolyn Chase
Amol and Pallavi Dixit
Stefanie Galey
Barbara Hansen
Jack and Lisa Hauser
Dr. Heather Huseby

Suzanne LeRoy
Bruce and Ann Nerland
Will Roach and Lisa Schwartz
Erick and Frances Roen
Mark Severson
Laurie Rose Simon

Life Changer
$20,000+
Anonymous
B & H Way Foundation
Bank of America Foundation
Charlson Foundation
Clear Channel Outdoor
Coldwell Banker Commercial Griffin Companies
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Greater Twin Cities United Way Arise Project
Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
Kresge Foundation
Minneapolis Foundation
Cornwell Family Fund

Opus Foundation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Target Foundation
The Saint Paul Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
World Childhood Foundation, Inc.

Dream Maker
$5,000–$19,999
3M Foundation
Ameriprise Financial Employee Giving Campaign

To learn more about becoming a Foundation Builder or including YouthLink in your estate plans, please contact Frances Roen at 612-252-1283.
The Scott Petinga Group
TJX Foundation, Inc.
Lynn and Carol Truesdell
Wells Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation

**Believer**
$1,000–$4,999
Frances Abbott
All God’s Children Metropolitan Community Church
Arthur Anderson
Anonymous
Bell Mortgage
Beth Jacob Congregation
Noah Bly
Rebecca Chou
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
CoreNet Global Midwest Chapter
Craft Catering
Gregg Cummings
David Weiner Foundation
Phillip Davis
Document Technology Solutions, Inc.
E.B. Osborn Charitable Trust

Edina Realty Foundation
Faegre Baker Daniels Foundation
Farm Kid Studios Inc.
Fresh Starts Farm
Stefanie Galey
Gannett Foundation
Patti Goldberg
Jerry Goldberg
Grace University Lutheran Church
Lili Hall Scarpa
Barbara Hansen
Dr. Rebecca Harmon and family
Jack and Lisa Hauser
Randal and Kay Heise
Hennepin County IT Department
Marc and Jackie Hertz
Leonard Hoffman
Jay Hulbert
Mike and Mary Jo Katke
James and Jane Kaufman
Kelber Catering
Melvin and Joanna Koenig
KPMG

Larry La Bonte and Kathryn Shaw
Ann Longfellow
John and Elisabeth Luke
John Medina
Robert and Mary Mersky
Minneapolis Foundation – RBA Cares
Minnesota Vikings
Robert Moe and Joyce Pribnow
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
Donald Nicholson and Leslie Hardey
Barbara Norrgard
Primp Boutique
Colleen Reitan
Erick and Frances Roen
Garrett and Judy Sampson
Jill Sando
Liz Sheehy
Joseph and Don Jo Smagacz
Sue Smukler
Staples Inc.
Melvin and Julie Tennant
The 12 Foundation

Carl & Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation
Carlson Family Foundation
Charles H. Clay Family CLAT Trust
Church of the Risen Savior
Ronald and Joan Cornwell
Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota
Andrea Ferstan on behalf of the Saul Winton Fund
General Mills Foundation
Dan and Kim Glienke
KDWB
Suzanne LeRoy
Bruce and Ann Nerland
Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless
Pax Christi Catholic Community
Peace-Shalom Foundation
Plymouth Congregational Church
PricewaterhouseCoopers
RBC Foundation
Corey Sauer
Robin and Donna Sheeley
The Grainger Foundation
**Believer (cont.)**

$1,000–$4,999

John and Amy Tillotson
Krista Tippett
Jim Torok and Nancy Hite
Randall Trask
UrbanWorks
Isaac and Anna Vogel
Voya
Voya Foundation
Thomas and S.C. Wimler
Wolfensohn Family Foundation
Woodhouse Family Foundation
Y'all Come Back Saloon
Ricky and Nancy Zinter
Dwight Zscheile and Blair Pogue
Zurich Insurance

**Nurturer**

$500–$999

Pamela Akerstrom
Roger and Beth Anderson
Anonymous
Clay Attlesey
Sanaya Bharuchha
Michael and Mary Black
Michael Brenk
Randall and Debra Brown
Camille Burke
Sarah Caruso
Audrey Clay
Clientek
Mark Davis
John Dorman
Colin Dougherty
Michael Eckhardt
John and Teresa Egge
Jan Elsasser
Event Merchandising Services LLC
Janet Fogle
Mark and Linda Garbacz
Jeffrey Gendreau
Philip and Cheri Geraffo
Larry Gerdes
Roxanne Gleason
Golden Sun Marketing
Paul Grangaard
Bradford Graves
John Griffith
Howard Hauben
Hilton Minneapolis
David and Ann Marie Hintz
Hot Indian Foods
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Michael Israel and Laura Landy
Mark Jensen
Paul and Jeannie Joas
Gary Johnson and Joan Hershbell
Judson Memorial Baptist Church
George and Vicki Kemp
Brien Kennedy
Mark Kleinschmidt
Kenneth Larson
Life Innovations Prepare Enrich
Megan Lunsford
Madison Community Foundation
Joseph and Christine Majeski
Mark Martis
Messerli & Kramer
James and Kjirsten Mickesh
Minnesota Timberwolves Basketball Limited Partnership
Robert Moen
Rodney Nelson
North Loop Neighborhood Association
Janice Ozzello
Michael Patton
Brian Paulson
Julie and Patricia Peterson
Robert Pohlad
Mary Ann Portnoy
Ronald and Kimberly Price
Ben and Kate Reinhardt
Bassford Remele and Suzy Moen
John and Linda Revier
Alice Richter
Will Roach and Lisa Schwartz
Thomas Rosen
Steven Rosenstone and Maria Antonia Calvo
Dudley and Marti Ryan
Ryan Family Donor Advised Fund
Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church
Burton and Sharon Schwartz
Scoreboard Sportswear Inc.
Philip and Jone See
**Nurturer (cont.)**
$500–$999

Chad Shank
Benjamin and Kristin Shardlow
Smith Roffers Group LLC
Social Capital Charitable Organization
Neshat Soofi and Alireza Shafiei
Philip Soran and Margaret Selby-Soran
John Smith and Jean Abbott
St. Paul Sober Living
Robert Stone
McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn and Lamb Chartered
Wendy Swanson
Elaine Tarone
The Amgen Foundation
Lynnae Trocchio
Lisa Walker
William Wanner
Susan Weinberg
Katie Wendorff
Western National Mutual Insurance Co.
Daniel and Jane White

Scott Wilensky
David Wyatt

**Motivator**
$100–$499

Mark Abbott
Mark Abersoll
Paul Ablack
Sandra Ackerman
David Adams
Mentor Addicks Jr. and Jeannette Bach
Rodney and Carla Ailes
Rick and Peggy Allan
Morris Allen
Bob and Kate Alm
James Altman
Brian and Bonnie Alton
Bradley Ames
Annette Anderson
Doris Anderson and Barbara Johnson
Damon Anderson
Elizabeth Anderson
Jessica Anderson
Joan Anderson
Mark and Bonita Anderson

Michaelle Anderson
Sally Anderson
Scott and Kristi Anderson
Teri Anderson
Benjamin Anderson-Nathe
Martin Andrusiak
Daniel Anfinser
Anonymous
Brenda Apfelbacher
Robert Applewhite
Milo Arkema
Karon Armstrong
Kevin Armstrong
Fred and Karen Atkinson
Julia Augdahl
Stefan Babirad
Jerry Bacck
Ani Backa
Richard Bailey
Mark and Margaret Bakko
William Balcer
Wendy Baldinger
Robin Baliszewski
Eric Ball
Jack and Ronda Bandy
Michelle Baratto
Keith Bares

Allison Barmann
M.L. Wilson-Barnard
Dominic and Moncia Barranco
Thomas Barrett
Sara Barrow
Ronald Barthell
Phil Beck
Amanda Becker
Mark Becker
Sharon Becker
Bruce Behm
Kurt Beinlich
Nick Benson
Susan Berger
Teisha Berger
Michael Bergman
Sheldon Berkowitz and Carolyn Levy
Best Buy Corporation
Gillian Bethune
Jacqueline Binger
Barry and JoAnn Birkholz
Carter Bishop
Deborah Bishop
David Bissen
Kathleen Blair
Daniel Blanco
Motivator (cont.)
$100–$499
Jill Blickstein
Bolster LLC
Joan Bond
Kathleen Born
Donis Boss
Julie Boyce
Reginald Boyle
Don and Linda Branch
Christie Brandt
Brede-Exposition Services
Julie Brekke
Bremer Bank
Blythe Brenden
Victor and Lorraine Brenk
John and Michele Brennan
Sam Breuer
Jimmy Bridges
Anthony Brown
Frank Brown
Rev. Elizabeth and Lawrance Brown
Patricia Brown
Terry Brown
Tricia Budke
Noreen Buhmann
Steven Burk
Charles Burton
Susan Byers
Michael Cahill
Janis Callison
Tim and Barb Callister
Jack Cannon
Kenneth and Barb Carigiet
Annette Carlson
Dan Carlson
David Carnes
Jeanne Carpenter
Patricia Carpenter
Birdie Carter
Douglas Carter
Matthew Carter
Terry Cattanach
Robert Cattanach
Philip Cattanach
Barbara Champlin
Jayni Chase
Phyllis Cheatum
Andrea Christenson
Michael and Lis Christenson
Nancy Cincotta
Rachel Circle
City of Woodbury
Carol Clarke
Louise Clarke
Patricia Clarke
Ann Clowser
Susan Colby
Coldwell Banker Commercial
Griffin Companies
Dan Collison
Arne and Jessica Cook
Robert Cooley
Dave Corbin
Pamela Costain
John Cowles
Sandra Coyle
Carol Cramer
Steve Cramer
Amy Crawford
David and Sue Cummings
Gary Cunningham
D&P Enterprises, LLC
Marianne D’Angelo
Denise Dau
Jeff Davies
Kevin Davis
Marie Davis
Raoul Davis
Kristin Day
Edward and Sherry Dayton
Judson Dayton
Laurie Demos
Tushar Desai
George Diaz
Senator Scott Dibble
Linda Dieken
Donna DiMenna
Michael Dimond
Robert Divinski
Priya Dixit
Ruth Donhowe
Nicole Donlon
Kathleen Donohue
Gail Dorfman
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We sincerely apologize for any errors in our list of donors and funders. Please call Jelena Song, Development and Volunteer Coordinator, at 612.252.1280 with any corrections.

Donors are listed by gift category during the fiscal year the donation or original pledge is made.
Dear Friends

What a journey we had in 2014! We celebrated our 40th anniversary with a year of growth, change, and new insights.

The stars shone on our first Night of Hope: Executive Sleep Out in September. More than 70 business and community leaders from the Twin Cities came together to learn about the challenges facing homeless young people. Sleeping on YouthLink’s front lawn, they raised awareness—and funds—and the evening was a huge success raising over $150,000. Many new conversations, friends, and collaborations were “sparked” as we talked about ways to benefit the youth we serve. (Be sure to save your spot for our 2nd Annual Night of Hope on September 27, 2015.)

One conversation from our first Night of Hope led to an invaluable “bold action” thanks to event participant Randy Trask, President and CEO of the GED Testing Service.

YouthLink will now become a GED testing site, so young people can receive tutoring and testing all under one roof—a huge benefit and resource for the youth we serve! We truly appreciate Randy for making this possible.

We continued to advance our thinking and best practices to change the journey of youth from homelessness into pathways of opportunity and hope. We took steps to become a principle-based organization using nine evidence-based principles for working with homeless youth. These principles emerged from two years of work with the Otto Bremer Foundation, Dr. Nora F. Murphy, Dr. Michael Quinn Patton, and five partner agencies. I encourage you to read about these principles at youthlinkmn.org/nine-guiding-principles/.

It was a year of innovative, intentional collaboration. Our In-Reach program, a collaboration with the Minneapolis City Attorney’s
Office, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, along with our involvement in Minneapolis’ Downtown 100 initiative, reduced crime rates among program participants by 74%. We opened new pathways to education, employment, housing, and mental health resources to youth with some of the most extensive criminal histories, diverting them from the criminal justice system while filling their lives with new hope, and new opportunities.

Our expertise in providing case management to young women experiencing commercial sexual exploitation was sharpened. With growing concern in Minnesota, we realized that a major gap exists in the Twin Cities in services targeting homeless youth—some of the most at-risk for exploitation. With funding from the World Childhood Foundation in 2014, YouthLink (working with the University of Minnesota’s Urban Research Outreach Engagement Center) studied the extent of exploitation and risk factors among homeless youth. We determined the most effective opportunities we have to prevent exploitation and how to better identify and protect this vulnerable population.

As always, your support and leadership on behalf of young people experiencing homelessness continues to amaze and move us. Thank you for another fantastic year.

Dr. Heather Huseby, Executive Director, YouthLink

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Our Mission:  Build healthy relationships with youth and the community to address youths’ urgent needs so that doors of opportunity are opened to futures of empowerment, connectedness, and self-reliance.

Our Vision:  Empowering youth to shape their futures by providing a safe, supportive, respectful, and responsive community of excellence. YouthLink is the place where the END of homelessness and the END of poverty begin for youth served.