

AVENUES

FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

2011-2012 Report to the Community

2011-12 was a year of progress and growth at Avenues for Homeless Youth. We significantly expanded programs and even won the 2012 Nonprofit Mission Award for Innovation. We are pleased to share this report of what we have accomplished thus far with you—our community of supporters and friends.

We say “thus far” because, as you know, we must do more. Thousands of young Minnesotans are still homeless and on the streets every night. They need the community’s support.

Avenues is committed to further expanding its programs and collaborating with partners so that ALL homeless youth may transition from surviving the streets to thriving young adults.

Thank you for your support.

WITH **SUPPORT** FROM
A **CARING COMMUNITY**,
HOMELESS **YOUTH** MOVE FROM
SURVIVING THE STREETS
TO **THRIVING** YOUNG ADULTS.



“I hope that my work makes people think about the importance of community in a world that seems to be increasingly individualistic.”

—Michael Birawer, Twin Cities Artist

A NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR YOUTH

My name is Krystal and I am 19 years old. When they asked me if I wanted to write something for this annual report, I said yes right away. I want people to know my story and to know that things can and do get better.

I had a very dark childhood. I lived in multiple cities and witnessed things a kid never should—even murder. By last year, I had been to over 20 funerals.

My mom raised me and my three older sisters the best she knew how, but we never had enough and always seemed to be struggling—and moving from one shelter to the next. I hit my personal low when I was 18 years old, living alone in a barn and feeling like no one cared. I was like a cat in the rain—scared and crying often and with nowhere to go. I missed connecting with people and felt depressed, angry at the world and hopeless.



Krystal volunteers with Avenues staff and youth at the 2012 Color Run

Then I found out about Avenues. Within two weeks of calling every morning, I was told a spot for me had opened up. Oh my! I felt nervous and excited and overwhelmed with emotions. When I arrived, they made me feel welcome. I thought, “Could this be real?” They helped me get back into school and discover resources and helped me get to appointments and get on a life plan. I became happier than I’d ever been—learning how to trust others and feeling as though I can do anything! I feel safe and like I can live to my true potential. I even started college this year! I never would have even thought that was a possibility—and now it’s my reality. Avenues has changed my life and I am so grateful for the people who live and work here.

Thank you for reading my story, and for what you have done to support me through your support of Avenues.

HELP AVENUES CONTINUE TO GROW! WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Talk with your friends. Join us on Facebook and Twitter. Spread the word.
- Host an event to raise funds, supplies and awareness for Avenues.
- Have an extra bedroom? Become a host in one of our Host Home Programs and open your home to a youth.
- Volunteer your time and skills.
- Donate money, stock or supplies. We always have special needs—just ask!

avenuesforyouth.org | 612-522-1690

With **SUPPORT** from...

- Avenues expanded its Shelter & Transitional Housing Program by 33% thanks to the Otto Bremer Foundation and other funders. We remodeled in early 2012 and welcomed 5 additional youth in April. 21 youth now go to sleep in safety every night at Avenues.
- 132 youth accessed Avenues' Shelter & Transitional Program in 2011-12. Another 25 youth participated in our Host Home Programs. With Avenues' support, 157 youth began their transition to a thriving young adulthood.

a **CARING COMMUNITY**...

- Volunteers and donors added 5 beds at Avenues and gave us fresh new paint and flooring, new landscaping and trees, and new cabinetry.
- Over 500 individual donors, volunteer groups, faith communities and foundations came together in truly inspiring ways to support Avenues' work. We are grateful and blessed.
- 300 volunteers gave countless hours to support homeless youth. They hosted youth through our Host Home Programs (those volunteer hours are really huge!), deep cleaned the shelter, organized our clothing and supplies closets, led trainings, provided tutoring, and organized fundraisers and supplies drives.

homeless **YOUTH** move from...

- The Suburban Host Home Program launched September 2011 and, in just 9 months, recruited and trained 15 host homes in Hennepin County suburbs. Avenues received the *2012 Nonprofit Mission Award for Innovation* from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and MAP for Nonprofits for this program.
- The Minneapolis Host Home Program launched summer 2012 and started recruiting host homes. We hope to have 10 host homes in Minneapolis recruited and trained by summer 2013.
- The GLBT Host Home Program supported the start-up of our new Host Home Programs, and is regularly consulted by communities around the country about how to create programs of their own. It was featured in January 2011 in a PBS "Need to Know" show.

SURVIVING the streets...

- Our youth are survivors! They accomplish and achieve every day. They develop their goals and do amazing things—go to high school and college, secure employment, volunteer in the community and more.
- Every single youth we support has tremendous potential. With guidance from Avenues, youth report gaining a higher sense of self-worth, hope and self-determination—three key ingredients to become thriving young adults.

to **THRIVING** young adults.

- Avenues' youth thrive because of YOU. Your support as a community forms a collective web of opportunities and resources for every youth at Avenues.
- With your support, Avenues will continue to adopt truly community-based and youth-focused solutions that meet homeless youths' needs. We are committed to supporting MORE homeless youth by further expanding programs and partnerships. To do that, we need your help. Thank you.

OUR MISSION

Avenues for Homeless Youth provides emergency shelter, short-term housing and supportive services for homeless youth in a safe and nurturing environment. Through such service, Avenues seeks to help youth achieve their personal goals and make a positive transition into young adulthood.

OUR STAFF



Deborah Loon, Executive Director

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kojo Baafi, KPMG LLP; **Robert Brandt**, Walden University; **Erin Campbell**, Office of the Governor; **Colleen Fisher**, University of Minnesota, School of Social Work; **Shawn Gensch**, Target; **Brian Gilligan**, Community Volunteer; **Eric Gilseth**, Fallon; **Tony Kouba**, Integrated Healthcare Strategies; **Kate Nilan**, Gray, Plant & Mooty; **Daren Nyquist**, Grassroots Solutions; **Doris Pagelkopf**, Nonprofit Consultant; **Seema Pothini**, Educational Equity and Diversity Consultant; **Andrea Seeger-Friesen**, US Bank NA; **Godson Sowah**, Ernst & Young; **Charles Tombarge**, University of Minnesota; **Valandra**, St. Catherine University, School of Social Work

For more information, contact us:

- avenuesforyouth.org
- 612-522-1690
- mike@avenuesforyouth.org

| REVENUE | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Private grants and contributions | \$473,101 | \$398,918 |
| Government grants and contracts | \$191,767 | \$194,043 |
| Program services | \$145,743 | \$123,827 |
| Miscellaneous income | \$1,766 | \$1,667 |
| Net special event revenue | \$4,683 | \$4,227 |
| Released from restrictions | \$198,285 | \$84,336 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$1,015,345 | \$807,018 |

| EXPENSES | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing Program (70%) | \$696,471 | \$588,578 |
| Host Home Programs (16%) | \$158,955 | \$54,100 |
| Management and general (7%) | \$71,547 | \$79,348 |
| Fundraising (6%) | \$62,101 | \$46,880 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$989,074 | \$768,906 |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Increase in unrestricted net assets | \$26,271 | \$38,112 |
| Increase in temporarily restricted net assets | \$451,215 | \$257,321 |
| Total increase in net assets | \$477,486 | \$295,433 |
| NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | \$626,637 | \$331,204 |
| NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR | \$1,104,123 | \$626,637 |

| ASSETS | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Cash (including Board designated reserve) | \$361,023 | \$275,060 |
| Accounts receivable | \$26,057 | \$37,353 |
| Promises to give | \$503,789 | \$148,689 |
| Prepaid expenses | \$2,852 | \$1,482 |
| Leasehold improvements & equipment (net) | \$263,117 | \$195,050 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,156,838 | \$657,634 |

| LIABILITIES | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Accounts payable | \$14,840 | \$9,715 |
| Accrued expenses | \$37,875 | \$21,282 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$52,715 | \$30,997 |

| NET ASSETS | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Unrestricted | \$112,153 | \$116,348 |
| Operating reserve | \$200,466 | \$170,000 |
| Temporarily restricted | \$791,504 | \$340,289 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$1,104,123 | \$626,637 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | \$1,156,838 | \$657,634 |

