Building On Dreams
Report to the Community: 2016-17
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.
Dear Friends

Over 6,000 youth in Minnesota are homeless and on their own every night. But thanks to you, our supportive community and special partners, we’ve seen big dreams come true at Avenues for Homeless Youth.

In the last fiscal year, Avenues:

• Supported 326 youth experiencing homelessness
• Launched the Avenues for Young Families program
• Deepened existing partnerships and created new alliances to better support youth experiencing homelessness

Avenues continues to be an organization that grows and evolves to meet the changing needs of homeless youth thanks in large part to Deborah Loon, who announced her planned departure from Avenues in June 2017. During her ten years as executive director, Avenues not only revived itself but thrived, doubling the number of youth supported in just the last three years alone. We are grateful for her vision, her dreams for Avenues and the youth we support, and her tenacity in making those dreams come true.

As the new leaders of Avenues, we are excited to be part of Avenues’ next chapter. We are proud to be part of a strong community that supports youth as they go from surviving the streets to become thriving young adults.

Please join us with your support and advocacy. Together, we will advocate strongly for youth experiencing homelessness and continue building on dreams. Thank you for your partnership with Avenues, our staff, and our Board of Directors.

Katherine Meerse, Executive Director

Chuck Tombarge, Board Chair
“Avenues’ staff helped me through a lot of hurdles. I also have to take credit for what I’ve done – I’m proud of myself.”

-Kal, the artist of the painting to the right
In April 2017, Wilder Research published their 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study. It found that every night up to 6,000 youth are homeless, and disproportionately they are youth of color, LGBTQ, and parents themselves.

We have long way to go until every young person has the home they deserve. As we reflect on our fiscal year we are reminded of the power of community and supporters. Over 300 youth had a home and support at Avenues. Our youth re-enrolled in high school or applied for college, many graduated and started their first job, and, with on-site access to Avenues’ mental health team, took steps in overcoming trauma. We witnessed youth dream about their future, and were honored to walk alongside them on their journey.

We, at Avenues, like to say 6,000 is a big number, but it’s not an impossible number. Thank you, community, for making a difference in the lives of our young people.

In FY17...
- 326 youth supported with housing and holistic supports
- 72% of program youth exited to stable housing
- 262 volunteers gave 2,107 service hours
- Over $65,000 worth of donated supplies
“My goal is to finish the GED program and get a career in nursing, starting with PCA then CNA. One day I want to buy a house.”

-Dominique, a mother in Avenues for Young Families
Wilder Research estimates that 35% of homeless youth are parents, but most are separated from their children because of their homelessness.

In January 2017, Avenues for Young Families launched to provide housing and services to homeless youth-led families. Thanks to our community partners like CommonBond, four families moved into their first apartments in the program’s first months of operation. Those families receive a temporary rent subsidy and wrap-around services from Avenues so that they can work on what matters – staying together in a safe and stable home. Avenues provides leasing and landlord support, and connects families with child care, job training and education support. The goal of the program is for families to raise their incomes high enough so that by the end of the rent subsidy, families can remain stably housed without subsidies.

“My dream is to be a good mother and to teach my daughter values.”
-A young mother in Avenues’ programs
“He did more than help me. He inspired me. He never looked down at me and he never looked up at me. He looked at me as a person who was capable of doing a whole lot.”

-Hawa, talking about Avenues’ Staff
Combined, our shelters supported nearly 300 young people in FY17. When 57% of homeless youth report having a serious mental health issue, and 89% report having experienced an adverse childhood experience, we know we must do more than just provide shelter to help youth overcome homelessness. This year we grew our in-house mental health team to include interns, who build our capacity to work with youth. Our mental health team provides individual and family therapy, as desired, and also leads clinical case consultations to insure our work with youth is approached with a mental health focus.

Youth in our programs have access to the mental health team and on-site nurse, education and career specialist, and after-care support specialist.
“He (the youth) helped me learn first-hand about being a black and trans person in a white society. His being around us probably brought out the best in my husband and I because we wanted to be role models. He became family to my husband and I. He became a friend as well.”

-A host home talking about their experience hosting a youth in the GLBT Host Home Program
This year, the ConneQT and GLBT Host Home Program staff moved into a new space subleased by RECLAIM. Named “Queer Avenues,” the space serves as an office for the ConneQT and GLBT Host Home Programs and a safe place for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Now neighbors, Avenues and RECLAIM have further deepened their partnership in referring and consulting with youth. Also in FY17, the Minneapolis and Suburban Host Home Program relaunched, after a short hiatus, to support youth in Hennepin County.

At the heart of our host home programs is community. This year, 22 youth received shelter and support in our host home programs thanks to a pool of 26 volunteer hosts who opened their hearts and homes. Of those youth, 86% moved into stable housing.

Exciting News & More...

- The ConneQT Collaborative won a True Community Award, awarded by the True Colors Fund
- The GLBT Host Home Program Community won the 2017 Avenues’ Ally Award
- Avenues was a 2017 Champion of Pride, awarded by Twin Cities Pride
- The GLBT Host Home Program Participated in a chapter of Where Am I Going to Go
“The core of what we do here is build positive relationships with young people. We do life with them. We support them. We believe in them.” - Chandler Jayasekera, Youth Advocate and Engagement Specialist
We, at Avenues, know that we cannot carry out our mission without examining and challenging what perpetuates youth homelessness. In response to displays of white supremacy and nationalism, Avenues released a community reflection to encourage dialogue that creates positive change. We invite you to read a passage from that reflection to the right.

This year we continued our internal work of transforming the culture of Avenues through our Just BEing Committee. This committee serves to create anti-oppressive practices that challenge ourselves, our agency, our communities, and our systems to be understanding, whole, equitable, and just.

We also created the Avenues for Change Committee whose mission is to advance Avenues’ work in the community around social justice change and equality.

**Avenues for Homeless Youth believes a whole and inclusive community is possible.**

We envision a community, state and nation where all people truly are equal, and where the diversity in our humanity is embraced.

We envision a community where all people have opportunity to pursue economic prosperity for their families regardless of the color of their skin, immigrant status, gender-identity, faith or sexual orientation.

We envision a community where love really is love, and where all faiths are equally valued.
# Financial Report

**FY17 Board of Directors**

**President**  
Godson Sowah, Ernst & Young

**Vice President**  
Doris Pagelkopf, Nonprofit Consultant

**Treasurer**  
Kojo Baafi, KPMG

**Secretary**  
Erin Campbell, Office of Governor Mark Dayton

## REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>$866,262</td>
<td>$683,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>$702,647</td>
<td>$684,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Income</td>
<td>$198,929</td>
<td>$222,894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avenues and Third Party Events (net of cost)</td>
<td>$166,616</td>
<td>$183,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$4,592</td>
<td>$1,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>$546,995</td>
<td>$413,831</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$2,486,041</td>
<td>$2,368,863</td>
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## EXPENSES

| Expense                                                        | FY 2017  | FY 2016  |
|                                                               |----------|----------|
| Shelter and Transitional Living Programs                      | $1,482,200 | $1,487,247 |
| Host Home Programs                                            | $328,635  | $248,221  |
| Young Families Program                                        | $95,435   | NA       |
| Management and General                                        | $232,475  | $202,401  |
| Fundraising                                                    | $311,497  | $237,583  |
| **Total Expenses**                                            | $2,450,242 | $2,175,452 |

| Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets                            | $35,799   | $193,411  |
| Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets                 | $254,328  | $211,169  |
| **Total Increase and (Decrease) in Net Assets**               | $(218,529) | $404,580  |

| Net Assets Beginning of Year                                   | $2,112,337 | $1,707,757 |
| Net Assets End of Year                                         | $1,893,808  | $2,112,337 |
# Financial Report

## FY17 Staff Leadership

Executive Director  
Deborah Loon  

Program Director  
Zayed Ahmed, PhD, LPCC, LICSW  

Director of Finance and Operations  
Peter Fischer  

Development Director  
Julia O’Brien

## FY17 Board of Directors Continued

Natalie Johnson Lee, Power of the People Leadership Institute  
Dr. Rhamy Magid, Hennepin County Medical Center  
Kate Nilan Uding, Luther Automotive Group  
Claire Wilson, Minnesota Department of Human Services

## FY17 Board Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$564,311</td>
<td>$642,173</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board-Designated Operating Cash Reserve</td>
<td>$562,253</td>
<td>$455,696</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts and Pledges Receivable</td>
<td>$780,545</td>
<td>$978,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$28,456</td>
<td>$7,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>$123,204</td>
<td>$146,749</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,058,769</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,230,789</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$16,444</td>
<td>$8,272</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$148,517</td>
<td>$110,180</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$164,961</strong></td>
<td><strong>$118,452</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$275,253</td>
<td>$521,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board-Designated Operating Cash Reserve</td>
<td>$562,253</td>
<td>$455,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>$1,056,302</td>
<td>$1,135,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,893,808</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,112,337</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | FY 2017 | FY 2016 |
| | **$2,058,769**| **$2,230,789**|

Avenues’ complete 2016-17 Audited Financial Report and 990 Tax Return can be viewed here.
Those that dream with us – through donations, volunteering and advocating – make our work possible. Every contribution to Avenues, from a package of socks to program sustaining grants, is critically important. Thank you for believing in Avenues and supporting the dreams of our young people.

**Corporate, foundation, faith community and civic organization supporters**

**Visionary $100,000+**
Otto Bremer Trust
Target Foundation

**Dream Maker $20,000-$99,999**
Alerus Mortgage
The Beverly Foundation
Buuck Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Charlson Foundation
ECMC Foundation
Jungle Red Salon, Spa and Gallery
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
PepsiCo., Inc.
Walmart Foundation

**Dream Team $5,000-$19,999**
Anonymous
BNSF Railway Foundation
The Braun Foundation
Casey Albert T. O’Neil Foundation
Christian Brothers Youth Home
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
I&G Foundation
John Larsen Foundation
Luther Family Foundation
Peace-Shalom Foundation
Pentair Foundation
Schulze Family Foundation
Still Ain’t Satisfied Foundation (SAS)
Turner Family Foundation

**United Health Group**
Wells Fargo

**Dreamers $1,000-$5,000**
All God’s Children Metropolitan Community Church
Anonymous
Ameriprise Financial
Bell Bank Mortgage
Best Buy
Best Vendors Management, Inc.
Cuppa Java (Naughty Dog Enterprises Inc)
Discover Church
Dominium
Edina Community Lutheran Church
Edina Realty-Lyndale Office
Edina Realty-Maple Grove

**Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church**
Gray Plant Mooty Foundation
Independent School District ISD 271
James T. Nystrom Foundation
The Kossol Becker Charitable Fund
KPMG
Little-Abeln Family Fund
Maple Grove Lutheran Foundation
Medtronic
Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures
Minnetonka United Methodist Church
Morton and Merle Kane Philanthropic Fund
Open Door Foundation
Open Your Heart To The

**FY17 Dream Builders**
Hungry And Homeless
Osseo Lions Club
Primrose School of Champlin Park
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park
Quota International of Minneapolis, Inc.
Right At Home - Mercury, Inc.
Riverview Elementary
Robins Kaplan, LLP
Rotary Club of Brooklyn Park
Smack Shack
Southwest High School Student Government
St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
Sunrise Community Banks
Surly Brewing Company
Tamarack Habilitation Technologies, Inc.
The Hamilton Family Foundation
The Rapids Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
Thrivent Choice
Timberland Partners

Twin Cities Gay Pool League
U.S. Bancorp
Unity Church-Unitarian
Warren Foundation
Womack Family Foundation
Advocates $999 and Below
Anderson
AT&T
Avionte Hope Foundation
Champlin United Methodist Church
Faegre Baker Daniels - Have a Heart Drive
Family of God Lutheran Church
Hendlin!
Hy-Vee Brooklyn Park
Imperial Court of Minnesota International Dairy Queen, Inc.
Minnesota Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators
Northern Light Church of Christ
Our Savior’s Church
Rotary 5950 Foundation

St. Croix Preparatory Academy National Honor Society
The Church of St. Gerard
The Nash Foundation
3M DMSD/FMSCO Division
Adam Van’t Hof Memorial Fund
Advance Consulting, LLC
Aetna Foundation, Inc.
ALAMN
Allina Health System
AmazonSmile
Apple Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota
Bodies by Burgoon
Borealis Dance
Bosch Packaging Technology Brandpoint
Bromelkamp Company
Brooklyn Center American Legion Auxiliary Post 630
Brooklyn Center Lions Club
Brooklyn United Methodist Church Women (UMW)
Bryn Mawr Presbyteri

Church
Buffalo Exchange
Butter Bakery Cafe
C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.
Caterpillar Global Paving
Champlin Park High School Student Council
CliftonLarsonAllen
Education Minnesota - Osseo
Fairway Financial Services, Inc.
FamilyWise
First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)
Fit. Well. Fresh, LLC
Foster Klima
GRACO
Hanauer
Hats & Mittens
Hoffmann & Swintek, LLC
Holy Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hudson High School GSA
Inbound BrewCo
Johnson and Johnson
Judith Roberts Graphics
Liberty Diversified
International Liberty Mutual Insurance
Lowbrow, Inc.
Luxury Garage Sale
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
Marin Hospitality Corp
Mc Kinsey & Co
Mendoberri Cafe and Wine Bar
Michael & Donna Kaplan Foundation
Microsoft Corporation
News Corp Giving
OneHope Foundation
Prince of Peace Women’s Circle
Re/Max Results - Scott Belcher
Restored Strength, LLC
Rolatec Pump Co.
Rotary Club of Brooklyn Center
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Sweet Soiree Events and Entertainment / Kinky Frid
Synchro Financial, LGBT Partnership Community
Telecom Pioneers - MN Chapter #18
Temple Israel
The Activity Committee at Lee Square Cooperative
The Anchor Fish and Chips LLC
The Estee Lauder Companies
The Herbivorous Butcher
The Rogers Family Foundation of MN
Thrivent Financial For Lutherns
Thrivent Financial Foundation
TopLine Federal Credit Union
Uncle Franky’s Restaurant
Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka
University Lutheran Church of Hope
University of Minnesota Gender and Sexuality Center for Queer and Trans Life - Office for Equity and Diversity
Voya Financial
Whole Family Chiropractic, PLC
Wingert Realty & Land Services, Inc.
Yess Yoga
Zachry Group

Individual Supporters

Dream Maker $20,000-$99,999
Anonymous (1)
Dream Team $5,000-$19,999
Abra M. Hovgaard and Holly Hanson
Anonymous (2)
Thomas L. Knabel, MD and Kent Allin
Braden and Nicole Kroll
John E. Larsen and Mike Stewart
Corey Sauer

Dreamers $1,000-$4,999
Anonymous (10)
Frank Babka
Scott A. Benson

Conee Biggs and Carol Meeter
Scott Blahauvietz
Eve Borenstein and Candace Falk
Kim Chapman LaFrence
Joseph M. Crosby
Larry Dunivan and David Gibson
Peter and Martha Eckerline
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Tiara Brown
Dalton Brown
Thea G. Bruley
Jennifer Bryan
Claire Bryan
Orlando Bryant
Mark Buccella
Jana L Budke and Paul D Wald
Jason Buranen
Thomas A. Burger and Mark Iezek
Mary Burger
Jacob Burgers
Mary Burke
Jessica Burke
Molly Burke
Karl Burkoth
Jeanne N. Burns and Elizabeth A. Oppenheimer
Mike Burns
Paul Busch
Dustin Butch
Marla Butler
Omsond Cain
Jonathan Calkwood
Dorothy Cameron
Barbara A. Cameron
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Joseph and Emily Campbell
Martina Campbell
Shirley M. Campbell
Joan B. Campe
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Colette Canniff
Bonnie Capper-Eckstein
Paula Cardinal
Justin Cardinal
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Nadine Carey
Joel Carlson
Amanda Carlson
Bree Carlson
Margaret Carr
Liz Carroll
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Kayla Carstensen
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Meghan Casey
Stacy Cashman
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Breezy Cephus
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Nicole Everling
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Janine Fugate
Jodi Funk
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Sandra Gagnon
Jane Galbraith
Susan Gallagher
Catherine Gallagher
Wendy Gamble
Joan Garcia
Bill Gardner and Crystal Meriwether
Eric Gartland and Monica Breen
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James and Mary Gearen
Jesse Gebhardt
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Marcia Gerring
Cheryl Gibbons
Andy Gifford
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Heidi Grandstrand
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Diane and Allan Grant
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James Greeman
Martin and Bonnie Green
Kari Grengs
Thomas W. Greve
Shawn Griffin
Natalie Griffith
Kathleen Griswold
Marlene Groen
David Groenheim
Mark Grunewald
Ryan Gueneveur
Rosanne Gulland
Luann Gunderson
Paul B. Gunderson
Andrew Gustafson
Jacquelyn J Gustafson
Josefina Gutierrez
Francisco Javier Gutierrez
Araiza
Matthew and Claudia Haas
Kirsten Haas
Brandie Irwin
John Irwin
Jenna Iverson
Elizabeth Jackson
Stephanie Jacobs
Lisa and John Jacobson
Carolyn and Dean Jahns
Tom James
Jessie Janni
Wendi Jarson
Jenny Javitch and Alon Ventura
Kate Jaycox
Cheryl and Robert Jechorek
Lisa Jensen
Welcome Jerde
Braden Jeunesse
Stacy Johanknecht
Amanda Johansen
Jay Johnson
Seth Johnson
Harold E. Johnson
Sheri and Bruce Johnson
Pamela Johnson
Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Jean Johnson
Susan Johnson
Kathleen A Johnson
Susan Johnson and Lisa Macklem
Sara Johnson
Shalin Johnson
Natalie Johnson Lee
Adam Johnston
Jason Johnston
Bobby Johnny
Marty Jonason
Judith Jones
Rebecca Jones
Ashley Jordan
Catherine Jordan
Rebecca Josephs
Melissa Joulwan
Joseph M Juick
Amy Juhl
Jeffrey Junkins
Sangita Kalarickal
Gerald Kaler
Nicholas Kallenbach
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Ashley Kapser
Guy Katopodis
Brenda Kayzar
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Tom Kell
Meghan Kelly
Kimberly Kelly
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Amy Kightlinger
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John and Sally Kimmes
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Virginia K King
Randall Kingsbury
Leslie King-Schultz
Karen J. Kingsley
Mary Joy Kinney
William Kinney
Lori Kirschmann
Jay Kistler
Jody Klabunde
Beth Klakoski
Julia Klein
Lisa Klein
Timothy and Karen Klevar
Tom and Kari Kleven
Dan Klobucar
Michael Klobucar
Mike Klobucar
Kristie and Stephen Klopp
Michele Kluth
Tonya Knaak
Jacalyn R. Knight
Joyce Kobilka
Connie Koebke Barsic
Kasey Koenig
Todd Kohnert
Colleen Kokesh
Brian Koland
Joyce Konczyk
Stacy Konkkel
Heather Koop
Geraldine and Michael Korfiatis
Anna Kornmann
Joshua Korthouse
Judith Kovacs
Kelly Koziol
James Koziol  
David M. Kraft  
Eleanor Krahn  
Tim Kramer  
Delores Krantz  
Molly Krantz  
Christopher Kraus  
Jeffrey Krause  
Salena Kravik  
Sarah Krier  
Jenna Krings  
Thomas Kroll  
Judith Krow and David Macmillian  
Jessica Kruell  
Brian Kruesel  
Katrina D. Kruit  
Ailie Kubow  
Cindy Kuehl  
Kirsten Kuehl  
John Kundtz and Thomas Amon  
Kelsey Kuno  
Janis Kuretsky  
Robert Kyker  
Deanna Lackaff  
Robert D. LaFrenz  
Marcia LaGrander  
Regina Laidlaw  
Bao Lam  
Susan Lamb  
Anna Lamb  
Kathryn Lampi  
Steven E. Landberg  
Maury and Julie Landsman  
Richard Lang and Susan Valo  
Aili Langseth  
Evan Lapiska  
Branden Largent  
Rev. Steven and Cheryl Larson  
Gary Larson  
Taylor, Sonia & Rose Larson  
Michael Larson  
Theresa Las-Peters  
Jennifer A. Lattery  
Mitch Lattimer  
Ethan Laubach  
Lance LaVine  
David Law  
Jospeh Lazur and Madalyn Cioci  
Barry Leavitt  
Carrie LeBarron  
Patience LeClair  
Elizabeth Lee  
Melinda Lee  
Randy R. and Karen L. Lee  
Sarah Leete  
Barbara Leighton  
Nicole Lemke  
Gina Lemon  
Annie Lennox  
Darrel L Lentz  
Samuel Leonard  
Marilee Leonard  
Lisa Lepeak  
Stacie and Timothy Lerum  
William Leslie  
Eva Leuthold  
Dana Levinson  
Judith and Russell Lewis  
Beverly J. Liebenstein  
Heather and Scott Lien  
Amy Lilja  
Adele Lillie  
R. Christopher and Deborah Lilly  
Jessica Lind  
Abby Lindeman  
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