



**AVENUES**  
FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

## AveNEWS April 2019



**6,000 youth in Minnesota won't have a stable home tonight. Together we can help.**

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**[Check Out Our New Events Calendar For Upcoming Events](#)**



**Brooklyn Avenues Tour With Mayor Jeff Lunde**

On May 16, Brooklyn Park Mayor Lunde will join Avenues for a tour and conversation about Brooklyn

### Dear Friends:

As a young person growing up in a small town, I dreamed of moving to a big city and working for social justice. Thanks to the many caring adults in my life - my parents, my best friend's mom, great teachers - my dreams came true. What did you dream of when you were growing up? Who was in your corner?

Young people experiencing homelessness have big dreams. Young people like Mason, who dreamed of a home of his own. Youth in Avenues' programs right now who are gearing up for high school graduation and dreaming of college and careers. Unfortunately, many youth experiencing homelessness struggle to build and maintain connections with caring adults. Avenues staff and volunteers serve as trusted adults in the lives of the youth we support, while they are in our programs and for years afterwards.

You, too, can be a caring adult in the lives of young people experiencing homelessness. Register for our Building on Dreams breakfast now and you will help more than 300 young people achieve their dreams!

*Katherine*

Katherine Meerse, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Avenues and the state of youth homelessness in Brooklyn Park. Brooklyn Avenues opened in 2015 after the community rallied to support young people experiencing homelessness and exploitation. Since the program opened, it has supported hundreds of young people. Last year, 90% of youth who exited the program moved into stable housing.

Every third Thursday of the month, Avenues hosts tours and conversations at Brooklyn Avenues and Minneapolis Avenues. Our tours are a way to share our mission. They are not fundraisers.

**Where:** Brooklyn Avenues or Minneapolis Avenues

**Brooklyn Avenues:** 7210 76th Avenue N. Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

**Minneapolis Avenues:** 1708 Oak Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55411

**When:** May 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[RSVP Here](#)

**We're Hiring!**

To see our positions, click here.

**Avenues Is Now On Instagram!**



Last month Avenues launched an Instagram to keep you more up to date on the happenings at Avenues. Follow Avenues at @Avenuesforyouth.

If you haven't followed Avenues main Facebook Page, @Avenuesforyouth, please do. A Host Home Community Group and Brooklyn Avenues Community Group are available on our Facebook pages, to provide



**Minneapolis Avenues grand opening in 1997.**

## Register Today For Building On Dreams

Registration for Avenues' Building on Dreams Breakfast closes at midnight tonight! At Building on Dreams we'll be reflecting on Avenues' 25th anniversary and hear from youth who were in the program 20 years ago. Michelle Basham, Avenues' founder, will also speak.

Building on Dreams is a free breakfast and fundraiser to support youth experiencing homelessness.

**When:** May 7, 2019, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

**Where:** Nicollet Island Pavilion 40 Power St, Minneapolis

[Register Now!](#)



## Community Members Needed

"The first time Mason Persons felt like he was really home, he says, was when he moved in with two women he had just met."

This month Avenues' host home programs and Mason, a former youth in the ConneQT Host Home Program, were featured in the Star Tribune. Avenues host home programs train and support community members who open their home to a young person experiencing homelessness. While in the program, youth and hosts receive intensive support.

## Gratitude This Month



Thank you Emily, Carissa, Nichola and Sarah for creating selfie sticks for our Building on Dreams breakfast!

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This month Donna Scheck and a group from St. Gerards Church cooked and cleaned at Brooklyn Avenues. Thank you for your dedication to young people, St. Gerards!

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Shout out to our volunteer Ron for helping us plant seedlings for our youth gardens.

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Thank you to our volunteers Connor Johnson, Rose Ahmann, Kim Dudgeon, Audra Kincart, and Myron Goodman for all that you do!

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 [Send to a Colleague](#)



Avenues for Homeless Youth

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The following is from the Star Tribune article:

"I feel weird about going to people's homes in general. But I was like, OK, I'm going to live here now," said Persons, now 21. After having been homeless for more than a year, "it was really weird and surreal to have an actual bed."

Persons met the women through Avenues for Homeless Youth. Now Avenues, which has operated throughout the metro area for more than two decades, is developing programs in two suburbs - Eden Prairie and Hopkins - where it's partnering with nonprofits to recruit families in the young people's home communities.

"The best thing for young people is often to keep them in their community and not displace them," said Sarah Granger, executive director of Hopkins-based MoveFwd, which offers a drop-in center and other services for youth in the west metro suburbs."

Avenues relies on the community to operate these programs and is continually recruiting hosts. To learn more about Avenues host home programs, [click here](#). Our next host home information session is on June 12.

[Read the full article here.](#)



**Local designers, who created up-cycled designs for the Red Affair fashion show, pose with models.**

## Thank You For An Evening In Red

Thanks to a dedicated team and loving support of Jungle Red Salon Spa Gallery, the 5th annual Red Affair event was a success! Guests enjoyed an night of dancing, music from the Sounds of Blackness, live and silent auction, and a fashion show with pieces from local designers. The event supported Avenues' integrative health and wellness team, raising thousands of dollars.

Local designers created custom up-cycled pieces in red for the event. If you missed the Red Affair, the designers will be at Jungle Red Salon on May 1 at the Rhythm and Red event. Some of the pieces will be for sale

(benefiting Avenues). [For more information, visit the Facebook event here.](#)

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible - Suzanne Erickson, Kari Melchert and the team at Jungle Red Salon, the Red Affair committee, the fashion designers and models, the sponsors and guests.