



AveNEWS January 2019



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

[▶ DONATE NOW](#)

Check Out Our New Events Calendar For Upcoming Events



Every third Thursday of the month Avenues is hosting an open house and conversation at both shelters. Anyone is invited to come - we promise you'll leave feeling inspired and learn about youth

Dear Friends:

Life for young people experiencing homelessness is never safe. Within 48 hours of becoming homeless, a young person on the streets will be approached by someone who wants to exploit them. But the polar vortex is bringing home to all of us just how dangerous life is for young people without a safe, warm place to sleep at night.

I'm grateful that Avenues has been here for 25 years, partnering with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams. And I'm so thankful for the outpouring of care and concern from you, our amazing community, in response to the treacherous cold. We've been overwhelmed by inquires about how you can help and offers of supplies and support.

Please donate today to help keep youth safe and warm today and every day. I hope to see you at our 25th Anniversary event in May!

Katherine

Katherine Meerse, Ph.D.
Executive Director



homelessness. This is not a fundraiser but an opportunity to learn more about our work and to see what your support has gone to. [More information here.](#)



Youth in Bloomington are experiencing homelessness. Host home is a community response where a spare bedroom can make the difference. Join us for a host home information session on January 31 from 6:30-7:30 p.m, and [learn more about host home here.](#)

What: Host Home Information Session in Bloomington
Where: Oasis for Youth, 2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431
When: January 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

We're Hiring!

To see our positions, [click here.](#)

Gratitude This Month



This month our kitchen at Minneapolis Avenues closed for a week. Thanks to overwhelming support from the community, 20 youth had breakfast, lunch and dinner catered for the week. Words can't describe how thankful we are for this - our youth and staff feel so loved! Thank you TopLine Federal Credit Union, Prince of Peace Lutheran

Emergency Support For Polar Vortex

It's dangerously cold outside. You can shelter a young person experiencing homelessness by supporting our emergency beds and shelters. A donation of \$65 provides a youth with shelter, wellness supports, and basic needs for one day.

Thank you for keeping young people safe and warm.

Donate Now



How Youth See Themselves

"Strong," "Power Of Love," "Persistent" and "Stop At Nothing" are just a few of the ways youth at Avenues describe themselves.



During a house meeting this month, youth and staff created collages depicting how they felt about themselves and want to be perceived. The boards remind us of the strength each of us has, and the importance of recognizing that. They are hung up at Minneapolis Avenues so that they're seen every day.

Church, Mike, James, Melissa, Chive MN, Caryl, and Chethana for your support!



On MLK Day, AmeriCorps volunteers spent the day with us assembling emergency bed kits. Youth who stay with us for a night or two receive a hygiene kit with essentials. Thank you so much for your support, AmeriCorps!

Thank you to the UMN volunteers who spent their Saturday making meals Minneapolis and Brooklyn Avenues!



Thank you Shrey, Harriet Bishop Elementary School, and the businesses who collected over 1,00 towels for Avenues and other shelters. Thanks to you, Avenues hasn't had to buy towels in years. We appreciate you so much!

Shout out to our fabulous volunteers, Sarah (tutoring), Audra (cooking) and Ron (maintenance and shelving) for all you do for Avenues! We couldn't do this work without you.

 [Send to a Colleague](#)



Avenues creatively engages youth in our programs. In February we'll be celebrating Black History Month, Valentine's Day and having a special Nickelodeon Universe trip. It's during these engagement activities that we're able to connect with youth, and they're able to just relax and have fun.

You can make a young person's day by sponsoring an activity - from arts supplies, to tickets to plays or day trips. Contact Marni Zimlin for more information 612-844-2005 mzimlin@avenuesforyouth.org.



Invite Your Friends to Our 25th Anniversary Event

You can help us celebrate our 25th anniversary by hosting your friends at a table at our Building on Dreams breakfast on May 7th. Hosting a table is as easy as inviting friends over for dinner. There are no tickets to sell, and there is no financial commitment. All you need is your passion for Avenues' mission.

In 1994, our then 19-year-old founder created Project Foundation (now Avenues) in the basement of Walker Church. What started as a single, ten bed shelter for youth in Uptown grew to what Avenues is today - supporting over 300 youth a year with shelter, housing and supportive services.

To learn more about hosting a table, please contact our



Avenues for Homeless Youth

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612-522-1690

Anna Bergreen, Director of Development at
abergreen@avenuesforyouth.org, or 612-242-9221.



We Have A New Website!

Over the last few months, Avenues has been remodeling its website to be more youth and user friendly. You'll notice our homepage looks quite different. You can now navigate the entire website from the drop down menu at the top. This makes it easier to engage with Avenues and find our resources and supports.

The new Resources and Support page has more information about our programs, our partners, and Youth Support Network. The page was created with youth and service providers in mind.

Our Make A Difference page was also updated. We have a brand new Volunteer, In-Kind Donation, Host Home, and Calendar pages for supporters who would like to get more involved.

[Check out the new website here.](#)