



AVENUES
FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

AveNEWS March 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:

As I reflect on Avenues' amazing 25-year history, I think about all of the ways that you make it possible. Your strong support, as donors, volunteers, and advocates, makes our success possible. You make possible the warm welcome, the space and time to recover from trauma, the chance to dream about their future that each young person coming to Avenues experiences.

I always enjoy the opportunity to meet you at our open houses. I'm especially interested in your questions. One that comes up often is "what causes youth to become homeless?" Before coming to Avenues I assumed, as many people do, that youth primarily experience homelessness because they run away or are kicked out of their homes. I have been surprised to learn how many of the youth we support are loved and cherished by their families and are experiencing homelessness because their entire family is homeless. They have had to split up to find places to live - mom and younger siblings in a family shelter, dad staying on grandma's couch, young person with Avenues.

Thank you for partnering with us to support youth experiencing homelessness, whatever the cause!

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.](#)



Neither traditional gala, nor a show supporting a cause, The Red Affair is a soirée with a purpose. Join us for a night of live auction, fabulous raffle prizes, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, dancing and music by member of Grammy award-winning The Sounds of Blackness. [More information and tickets available here.](#)

What: The Red Affair

Where: St. Mary's University Center

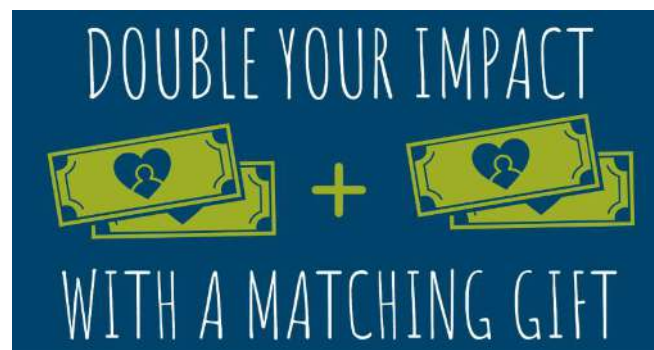
When: April 27, 6:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.



Register For Building On Dreams, Celebrating Avenues 25th Anniversary

For twenty-five years Avenues has been walking alongside youth experiencing homelessness. At this year's Building on Dreams Breakfast, you'll hear powerful stories from our past and present, including Avenues founder Michelle Basham and youth from the early years of our operations.

By attending Building on Dreams, you show up for young people experiencing homelessness and partner with us in walking alongside them. Please join us on May 7, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The event will be held at



Double Your Impact Before May!

Now until April 30, an anonymous donor is matching donations up to \$25,000! Can you help us meet our goal? Your donation impacts us by:



\$50

Providing one young person with everything they need to go back to school. At Avenues we know that advancing a young person's education is key to overcoming homelessness.



\$120

Providing three young people with therapeutic art supplies. The majority of youth at Avenues have experienced a serious traumatic event. Having therapeutic supplies and our health and wellness team helps young people cope and overcome past trauma.



\$250

Provides a week of meals at Brooklyn Avenues, our shelter in Brooklyn Park. Avenues shelters are 24/7, providing over 30,000 meals a year to young people experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your support, community. Avenues is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year because of you.

[Double Your Donation Here](#)

Nicollet Island Pavillion, 40 Power St, Minneapolis, MN.

What: Building on Dreams Breakfast

Where: Nicollet Island Pavillion, 40 Power St., Minneapolis, MN Church, 7217 West Broadway Ave. Brooklyn Park, 55428

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

[Register Here](#)

We're Hiring!

To see our positions, click here.

Avenues Is Now On Instagram!

This week 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. We will be deleting our GLBT Host Home, ConneQT Host Home and Brooklyn Avenues Facebook pages to provide you more valuable content and to launch the Instagram. A Host Home Community Group and Brooklyn Avenues Community Group have been created, available on our Facebook pages, to provide program specific content.

If you have questions or need help navigating our social media, contact Rachel Blair at rblair@avenuesforyouth.org or 612-844-2001.

Gratitude This Month



Thank you Caritas Vocal Ensemble for hosting a beautiful choral concert! The event, at Prince of

TAKEN OVER, BY A YOUNG PERSON AT AVENUES

Taken Over, A Poem

A young person in the GLBT Host Home Program wrote the poem below and asked staff to share it. Often in the nonprofit world, and at Avenues, we get stuck on sharing stories that are positive and leave us feeling good. The stories that challenge us the most and call out systems that continue to perpetuate prejudice and discrimination, are the stories we tend to overlook or avoid.

The poem below highlights the very real barriers and systems working against the young people in our community who are experiencing homelessness. Along with stories that focus on youth resilience we must also create space for stories that are raw and honest, and speak to the oppressive ways systems have impacted youth. For that reason we chose not to edit out strong language.

Taken Over


Can't think straight.
Can't do anything right.
What do I do now?
I'm stuck my life is fucked.
Can't help me cause I'm dust.
Floating in mid air. This is not fair.
Where do I belong. Dope killed hope.
Stopped the flow. Where will I go.
I have no home. I feel so alone.
I crumble as I tremble with fear.
I need to get out of here. Listen to me.
I want to flee. Will I ever be free again?
The system is twisted.
As they got me hanging. Slowly I'm fading
as days pass my rights flash, turns to trash.
There's no use they just get refused
as I speak they want to flee from the truth.
When they see me fight for my right
till there's nothing left as they think they
know what's best. Feeling trapped that a fact.
Being tracked as they're waiting in silence
till i collapse. Being a product as they make
profit off me. Not a human till you prove them.
Moving like a pawn not knowing what I've done.
Feeling like a dummy as they make the money.
I'm not backing down I'm standing my
ground because I'm done being their clown.

Peace Lutheran Church, raised over \$1,000 for youth experiencing homelessness. Thank you!

Thank you Quota International of Minneapolis for celebrating and fundraising for Avenues at Omni Brewery this week!

The Prince of Peace Quilting Group created 29 large blankets for the youth at Brooklyn Avenues. Thank you so much for keeping the youth warm and feeling welcomed!

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

 [Send to a Colleague](#)



Avenues for Homeless Youth

1708 Oak Park Ave North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411
info@avenuesforyouth.org
612-522-1690



The Red Affair: Over 15 Years Of Partnership

"In 2002 she (Suzanne Erickson) toured Avenues. She could see what a need there was for Avenues," Kari Melchert, Salon Director of Jungle Red Salon Spa Gallery, said.

Suzanne, owner and CEO of Jungle Red, has been supporting Avenues ever since that fateful tour. Jungle Red has donated thousands of dollars worth of in-kind support, and has raised even more funds through their special events. What started as fundraiser hosted at the salon has grown into The Red Affair, a soirée with hundreds of guests raising over \$20,000 for youth experiencing homelessness.

"One of our core values as a company is to support our local community. This is our way of contributing to that," Kari said. "We really appreciate how Avenues has lots of different programs to assist youth in achieving their dreams."

This year's Red Affair, on April 27, is supporting Avenues' integrative health and wellness team. Their goal is to raise \$30,000, providing critical access to mental health therapy and nursing support.

Kari said guests can look forward to a new event space, St. Mary's University Center, music from members of The Sounds of Blackness, closing party with DJ Jake Rudh, and awesome auction items including a one week trip to Aikens Lake Wilderness Resort. All proceeds from the event benefit Avenues.

"We feel like it's a great cause to celebrate a night out," Kari said. "It's black tie formal attire so get dressed up and celebrate all we can do as a community!"

[More Information and Tickets Here](#)