



Talking Points

Thank you for being a 2020 Building on Dreams Table Host! Being a host is as easy as inviting friends over. You already know and love Avenues, and the best way to inspire others to come is by sharing why you love Avenues to them. Below is more information about Avenues to help you invite your 9 guests.

Sample language for inviting guests:

Hi Jane,

Please join me for a fundraiser breakfast June 8th, supporting Avenues for Youth, a local nonprofit I'm passionate about. They support youth experiencing homelessness with housing, supportive services and 24/7 staff. Avenues matters to me because (fill in your reason here). I hope you'll join me in supporting youth experiencing homelessness.

You can use some of the facts below to inspire your guests to attend:

- Avenues has been supporting youth experiencing homelessness for 25 years.
- Every night, Avenues supports 50-60 youth, including families.
- Over 6,000 youth experience homelessness every night in Minnesota, yet there's only shelter for about 15%.
- Avenues partners with youth experiencing homelessness. They walk alongside youth on their journey, and believe that homelessness is just a moment in that journey.
- Avenues provides more than housing and shelter. They have an onsite mental health team, nursing support, education and career guidance and are open 24/7. They provide 3 meals a day and all basic necessities.
- Avenues is one of the few providers with LGBTQI+ specific and youth-led family specific programming. It offers these programs for the disproportionate number of LGBTQ identified youth and homeless youth parents.
- The affordable housing crisis in Minnesota is especially hard on youth and young people. Over half of Minnesota's homeless population are youth and children.

More about Avenues:

Avenues' mission is to partner with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams. The nonprofit offers five different avenues (or programs) for youth ages 16-24. The theme of our 2020 Building on Dreams breakfast is the different avenues we offer for youth, and how those are tailored to meet the specific needs of a young person experiencing homelessness. You can expect your guests to be inspired at the breakfast and leave with a sense of urgency for youth homelessness.