

2020 REPORT TO COMMUNITY HONORING OVER 25 YEARS OF YOUTH WORK

IT TAKES COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

Avenues embarked on its 25th year of operations this fiscal year, and what a year it was. To say that I'm incredibly proud of how our staff, youth, and community adapted would be an understatement. In the face of the pandemic and civil unrest, Avenues' doors remained open and welcoming to over 300 youth. And of the youth who moved out of our programs, 71% exited to stable housing.

Like many nonprofits, this year was about adapting to COVID-19 and recommitting ourselves to painful but necessary anti-racism work. The murder of George Floyd forced our community to recognize the fear and racism that the majority of youth at Avenues experience every day. Avenues envisions a community where all youth can thrive, yet 89% of the youth we support are youth of color. Until we, as a community, individuals, leaders, and politicians do the work to eliminate racism, that vision won't come true.

It truly takes a community to break barriers and make dreams possible for a youth experiencing homelessness. Especially this year. Thank you for being a partner in this work. Every mask donated, every donation, and every email asking how the youth were doing made an impact.

Sincerely,

Katherine Meerse, Executive Director

P.S. If you haven't yet, I invite you to reach out to us about how we can partner with your community, faith group, or company in anti-racism work through our Avenues Allies Program. Contact us to learn more. info@avenuesforyouth.org

our vision A community where all youth flourish.

our mission Avenues for Youth partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.

Avenues new mission was adopted in Deceber 2019.

our values

equity anti-oppression respect + dignity community trust liberation

331 volunteers gave 928 hours of support

300+

masks were donated to Avenues to keep youth and staff safe.

our partners

made our Minneapolis Avenues' remodel possible, providing a more comfortable home for youth. Thank you Cushman & Wakefield for making Avenues your 2019 CommUNITY Day recipient.

YOU MADE A SAFE HOME

Keeping young people safe and healthy has always been a top priority at Avenues. With the help of our partners, we were prepared for COVID-19 and swiftly took actions to keep youth and staff safe. This included:

- Minimizing traffic within our spaces and temporarily stopping in home visits
- Reducing three-person bedrooms to two-person (to keep social distancing) at Minneapolis Avenues
- In depth sanitizing regimens
- Wearing masks in common areas and maintaining social distancing at least six feet apart

Tessianna moved into Minneapolis Avenues in the spring of 2019. Her dad put her out of the house after a fight with his new girlfriend. He was getting a divorce and things were intense at her house.

As a social butterfly, Tessianna quickly got to know everyone in the house, even the staff. With two roommates and a house full of friends, it was hard for her to focus. Months went by without Tessianna making much progress on her goals.

When the pandemic hit, Tessianna was asked if she'd like to transfer to Brooklyn Avenues to help keep social distancing. She was excited about the opportunity to have her own room.

Having her own space changed Tessianna. The independence motivated her to work towards her goals. She got two jobs and started a relationship with her parents again. It wasn't long after moving to Brooklyn Avenues that she saved up enough to get her own apartment. She moved out of Avenues in August to live in the same apartment building as her mom. She's thriving.

YOUR IMPACT BY NUMBERS

across all our programs, Avenues supported more than 300 youth and of the youth who moved out of our programs, 71% moved into stable housing





minneapolis avenues housed 53 youth & sheltered 26 youth

brooklyn avenues housed 26 youth & sheltered 6 youth



young families housed 17 families and supported 22 children



conneQT housed 10 youth



YOU PROVIDED SUPPORT

In October of 2019, the worst happened to Angelica's family.

She, her mom and three siblings were being evicted. Her mom, who was on disability, had fallen behind on rent. Angelica's two sisters were invited to stay with their aunt and her brother found his own apartment. Angelica didn't have a good relationship with her aunt, so she connected with Avenues. She moved into Minneapolis Avenues by the end of October.

Angelica had received a mental health diagnosis when she was very young and was doing well managing her wellness plan. When she moved in to Avenues, the Mental Health and Wellness Team coordinated with her providers to ensure that Angelica continued to take her medications and had access to her therapist. They arranged for her therapist to meet Angelica where she was at, having meetings at Avenues.

It took time for Angelica to feel safe at Avenues. She was reserved with her walls up. She kept putting off Makeda's, her Youth Advocate, suggestions. Eventually they had a turning point.

"I talked to her like a human being, not a clinician, and asked her to help me help her," Makeda said.

When the pandemic happened, Angelica buckled down and made huge progress on her goals. She applied for college and was accepted to the University of Minnesota. She continued to meet with her therapist throughout the pandemic, having distanced meetings outside. She also opened up and became know as "chatty."

Angelica moved into off campus housing in August. She's looking forward to classes and is planning to major in IT and minor in film. She and Makeda check in twice each month. **90%** of youth supported were ages 18-24. 10% of youth were 16-17.

89%

of youth supported were youth of color

of youth supported had a disability

all youth

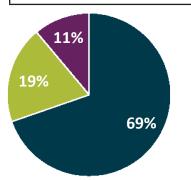
who lived in Minneapolis or Brooklyn Avenues received an initial mental health and physical from our Wellness Team. Many continued to consult the Wellness Team.

FINANCIALS

For the 2020 fiscal year, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. View our latest 990 and audited financials at www.avenuesforyouth.org.



Revenue	
Donations	\$1,587,433
Government Grants	\$1,193,287
Program Services	\$263,792
In-Kind Contributions	\$168,856
Special Event Revenue	\$86,239
Investment Income	\$17,980
Other Income	\$16,896
Total Revenue	\$3,334,483
Expenses	
Programs	\$2,277,087
Management & General	\$364,315
Fundraising	\$337,399
Total Expenses	\$2,978,801
Net Assets	
Beginning Net Assets	\$3,411,651
Ending Net Assets	\$3,767,333
Change in Net Assets	\$355,682



Program Expenses

Transitional Living & Emergency Shelter Services

Community Based Housing Services

Rapid Rehousing Services

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our leadership

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"Youth face such a different set of challenges today than when I was that age. I think youth, particularly those facing the issues of not having a permanent home, have an amazing amount of courage. Their determination and focus is inspiring."

Jane Windmeier, Dream Maker Society Member

YOU ARE OUR ALLIES AND DREAM MAKERS

Deshawna lived at Brooklyn Avenues for 18 months before she was ready to move on. During that time, her Youth Advocate, lan, encouraged her to build back relationships with her family that had been broken. It took a long time, but slowly Deshawna and her mom started talking again. They got closer than they ever had been before.

When Deshawna's mom, who was working towards financial freedom, got her own place, she asked Deshawna to come live with her. Her last day at Brooklyn Avenues was bittersweet, and also happened to be her 21st birthday.

Our Avenues Ally, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, made sure that Deshawna's last day was special. They delivered Deshawna's favorite dessert, a cheesecake, decorations, and even gifts. Ian surprised her with a pizza party before helping her move into her new home. She checks in with Ian monthly.

FY20 was the first full year of our Avenues Ally Program and Dream Maker Society. In FY20, Avenues Allies provided essential supplies, learned about the systems creating youth homelessness, volunteered, and made an impact on youth like Deshawna. We welcomed 4 new Allies in FY20.



Dream Makers are a group of individuals that commit to donate \$1,000 or more for two years to Avenues. This year we welcomed 12 new members to the society.

Learn about Avenues Allies and Dream Makers at www.avenuesforyouth.org.

FY20 DONORS

Avenues community ensures that over 300 youth this year had a home and supports to overcome homelessness. We are grateful for every donation, from a pair of socks to a gift of stock. Thank you, community, for partnering with us in supporting youth dreams.

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Includes civic, corporate, faith, and foundation giving. Anonymous gifts not reflected.

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