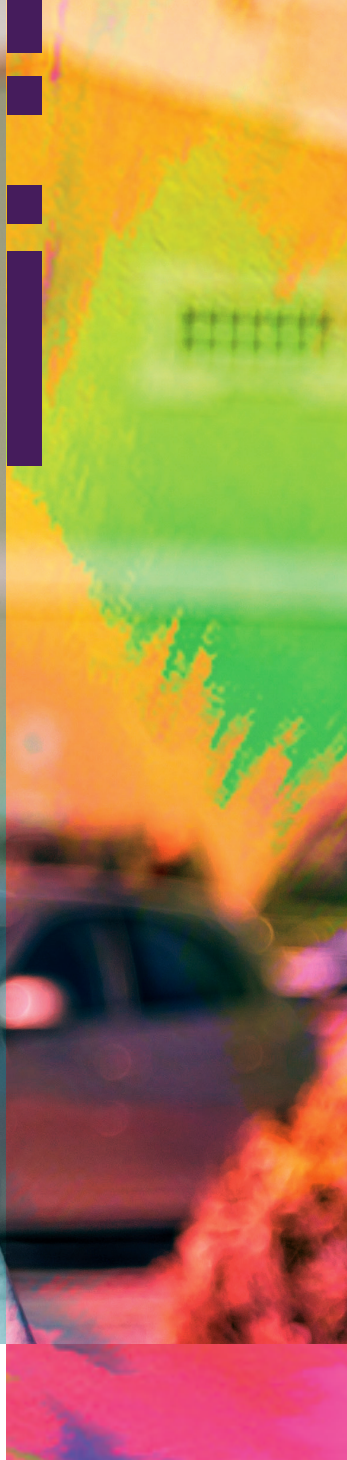




AVENUES
FOR YOUTH

A HOME OF OUR OWN
Where youth dream and grow
2023 – 2026



Mission

Avenues partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.

Vision

A community where all youth flourish.

Values

Equity, Community, Respect + Dignity, Trust, Liberation, and Anti-Oppression



Showing Up For Youth

For 30 years, Avenues for Youth has partnered successfully with youth experiencing homelessness aged 16 to 24. When young people arrive at our doors, from the Twin Cities and beyond, we listen to their stories. We provide them with safe shelter, pathways to stable housing, and holistic support that honors their identities and helps them live lives of joy and purpose.

In short, we help young people achieve their dreams.

But a growing number of youth are seeking our partnership, and our current spaces in Minneapolis are not adequate to meet their critical housing and support needs. We want to help more young people achieve their fullest potential, and we want to decrease the possibility of chronic adult homelessness.

We want homelessness to be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

To make this vision a reality, we must expand, improve, and evolve our housing options. We know this is possible with the generosity of our supporters, who have demonstrated over the past three decades how much they believe in our youth, our vision, and our approach.

As we embark upon this campaign to provide life-changing housing and support for youth, we invite you to join us in showing up for the young people in our community.

Sincerely,



Alexis Kantor
Campaign Co-Chair

Meeting a Deep Community Need

Each night in Minnesota, over 4,000 youth experience homelessness. As a state, we do not have anywhere near enough beds to keep all youth safely housed.

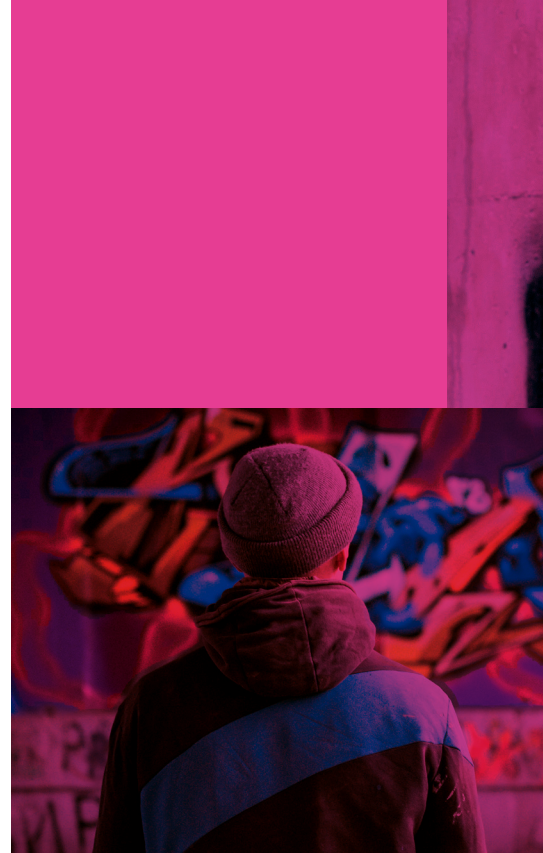
The few youth-specific housing programs available can support just 15% of these young people. The Twin Cities has one of the worst housing shortages in the nation, and youth who come to Avenues seldom can afford market-rate rent. Extensive research and community input reinforce a critical need for more housing options for youth experiencing homelessness, especially in North Minneapolis.

Our current Avenues location in North Minneapolis is in great demand but is not large enough to meet the needs of youth or staff. Its spaces do not provide a safe, dignified, and trauma-informed environment in which to heal and grow. Youth share gendered bedrooms and bathrooms, which can trigger conflict. A lack of an elevator limits access. Offices are intermingled uncomfortably with housing.

The outcomes between Avenues sites also points to the need for a new site in Minneapolis. While youth demographics, staff, and programming are nearly identical, the percentage of youth who exit Minneapolis Avenues to stable housing lags significantly behind Brooklyn Park. It is clear that the building is critical to excellent outcomes.

Avenues has engaged youth, donors, volunteers, and a broad network of youth service providers to plan for a new site. A feasibility study identified the potential for support from the community, and a site search identified a location that can accommodate additional housing units and is easily accessible

by public transit. Now we are pursuing the resources for acquisition, construction, and start-up operations for Avenues for Youth's new expanded home just a few blocks from our long-time location in North Minneapolis.





A Proven Track Record

Avenues has a proven track record of partnering with youth aged 16 to 24 to address their unique challenges and barriers.

- **Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs** provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, intensive and individualized support, and after care once youth leave the programs. On average, 70% of youth in the Minneapolis Avenues and Brooklyn Avenues programs exit to safe and stable housing.
- **ConneQT Host Home Program** provides LGBTQI+ youth with culturally responsive housing within their community of choice, as well as intensive outreach and drop-in programming for other youth. 100% of the youth in ConneQT have exited to safe and stable housing over the last several years.
- **Young Families Program:** Rent subsidies and individualized support helps parents identify and reach their goals. 100% of youth have exited to safe and stable housing in recent years.

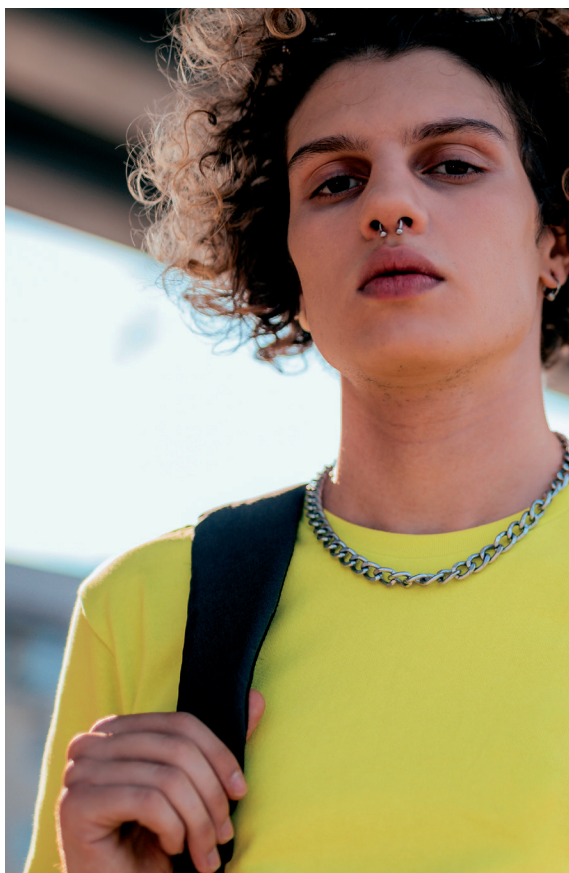


Building an Inclusive New Home

A new North Minneapolis home will position Avenues to meet the growing needs of the youth in our community.

This dignified, safe, trauma-informed space will demonstrate to young people that they are loved and valued. Our new home will:

- Allow us to increase the successful placement rate into stable housing for our Minneapolis Avenues youth by 33% through a model that increases dignity, health, and safety, and eliminates gender and age restrictions.
- Increase the number of emergency overnight beds from one to two.
- Add 8 affordable first-step apartments for youth ages 18+.
- Create a gathering space where youth can build community.
- Serve as the new administrative headquarters for Avenues.
- Increase the number of youth sustained by scattered sites in our community-based programs, including doubling the number of young families we support.
- Allow Avenues to design and direct its own space with and for youth.



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You can't talk about community health and wellness without talking about housing and homelessness. The programs and supports that Avenues provides on a daily basis are essential to short-term and long-term health outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness, but also to educational and career outcomes and the overall strength of our community.

—Stella Whitney-West
Retired Chief Executive
Officer, NorthPoint Health &
Wellness Center



A trauma-informed design will promote an environment of healing.

Our current location has 20 beds in shared rooms with shared bathrooms and one emergency overnight bed. The new Minneapolis Avenues, to be built on four currently vacant lots at the corner of North 8th Avenue and Humboldt Avenue North, will provide youth ages 18+ with:

- 20 shelter and transitional living beds that provide each resident with a separate bedroom and access to a non-gendered, individual bathroom.
- 2 emergency overnight beds that offer a safe place for youth in crisis until a longer-term solution can be identified.
- 8 new first-step apartments where young people can live independently but still have access to key Avenues supports to help them overcome barriers, build a rental history, and learn life skills they need to navigate systems related to housing, health care, education/training, and finances.
- Office space to double the number of community-based program staff in relation to the community's needs.
- Flexible program space for a variety of youth-led programs, such as yoga, music, training, and more.
- Health and wellness program space to accommodate both physical and mental health practitioners who are critical to supporting Avenues' youth.
- A beautiful, safe location across the street from the spacious Bethune Park.

Avenues is committed to sustainable design and will incorporate numerous sustainable features, including solar panels, storm water management, and intentional connections to public transit and bike/pedestrian amenities.



“A Home of Our Own is the logical next step for Avenues for Youth to expand its programs and continue making a lasting impact in the lives of youth experiencing homelessness. The new home will ensure that even more young people have access to shelter and holistic services with caring adults walking alongside them as they realize their dreams.”

— Rachelle Haroldson, Board Member and Capacity Campaign Committee Member



Inviting Our Community to be Part of the Solution

“We knew immediately we wanted to partner with Avenues in this new phase of growth that will bring life-changing experiences for youth in our community.”

— Gail and Bob Buuck, *A Home of Our Own* lead-gift donors

A successful **Home of Our Own** campaign will position Avenues to support more youth today while reducing the possibility of homelessness in the future.

Your support will contribute to a youth-centered and trauma-informed North Minneapolis site that will provide many more emergency, transitional, and affordable housing options. In this new site, Avenues can strengthen partnerships and build a greater sense of community by offering space for youth events.

As Avenues begins its fourth decade, this campaign will prepare and sustain our work for years to come. Our youth need this, and we believe our community is ready to act.

please
join us





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[Avenues] allows me to feel like I have a home, like I can be comfortable, not have to think about my next move. Like, my gosh, what's going to happen now? I can be comfortable, like 100% comfortable in my own space.

— Dakiya, former youth of Brooklyn Avenues

We need to invest in organizations like Avenues because they recognize that while shelter does save lives, housing is what ends homelessness.

— Cathy ten Broeke, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Director,
Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness



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