

STAFF CONTACTS



Deborah Renshaw, Executive Director

drenshaw@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4467

Before she became the Executive Director, Deb served on The Link's Board. She has extensive training in Health Realization and has used it in her personal and professional life for over twenty years. Prior to joining the staff, Deb was Vice President of Delden Film & Video for 17 years handling accounting, human resources, communications and customer relations. She holds an MA in Human Development from St. Mary's University, and a BS in Art from the University of Wisconsin.

James Kambiri, Program Director

jkambiri@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4469

James oversees all programmatic operations of The Link. He has nine years of experience working with youth in various settings via his work as a counselor and teacher with youth at risk and youth offenders. James has volunteered as a chemical dependency group facilitator and with a church-based youth group. He earned his B.A. degree from St. Scholastica and has received Health Realization training at The Link.

Lynne Marihart, Business Manager

lmarihart@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4468

Lynne handles accounting, budgeting, and human resources for The Link. She has over 20 years of accounting experience and loves to examine and track cost, but has never figured out how to do it from a canoe. She also has prior experience volunteering as treasurer and board member of a very small nonprofit. Lynne has a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Gustavus Adolphus College and has also studied accounting at the University of Minnesota.

Lauren Rimestad, Development and Communications Officer

lrimestad@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4479

Lauren handles fundraising and marketing efforts. Lauren came to The Link from African American Family Services, working in development for three years. Prior to that, Lauren worked in a governmental relations firm in Washington, D.C. Lauren spent a year in Brazil as an English Tutor, and spent an additional year in Brazil studying Brazilian anthropology and politics. Lauren has a BA in Spanish and Portuguese Studies from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Kate Tobin, Youth and Family Services Director

ktobin@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4471

Kate oversees the Building Supportive Communities and Project Potential programs. She began her work at The Link as a Youth Advocate, moved into the Program Manager position, and recently became the Youth and Family Services Director. Kate has a BA in Anthropology from the University of MN. Her focus throughout her studies was on aspects of contemporary American culture including racism, sexism, sexuality, religion and economics. In her spare time, Kate facilitates support groups that center on issues specific to women. Kate has always been passionate about issues of social justice and committed to working with youth and families. She received Health Realization training at The Link.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH STAFF

Tim Reneau-Major, Community Outreach Developer

treneumajor@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4470

Tim is responsible for creating and maintaining relationships with area businesses and social service organizations to help fulfill the mission of The Link. He comes to The Link after spending two years abroad working with development efforts in Uganda. He received his BS in Sociology from the University of Minnesota and is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Policy.

BUILDING SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES STAFF

Kristan Clow, Building Supportive Communities Program Coordinator

kclow@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4482

Kristan came to The Link from Quality Bicycle Product, where she was a Training Program Developer. She is currently a student at Metropolitan State University, pursuing a degree in Social Work. Kristan has volunteered for four years as a support group facilitator with Face to Face Health and counseling services, and brings to The Link over seven years of experience in sales, customer support and retail management.

PROJECT POTENTIAL STAFF

Bob Schneeweis, Project Potential Program Manager

rschneeweis@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4478

Robert Schneeweis manages the Project Potential program, group activities and initiatives. Bob came to The Link to work as the Building Supportive Communities Training Program Coordinator, and moved to the position of Project Potential Program Manager. Prior to joining The Link, he provided school-based violence prevention education through the Tubman Family Alliance for two years. He graduated from St. John's University with a BA in Peace Studies, and is well versed in the areas of Health Realization, Restorative Justice, and youth development in general.

Nue Xiong, Case Manager

nxiong@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4475

Nue is a graduate of Winona State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and a Minor in Sociology. Before joining The Link, Nue was a Family/Youth Advocate at La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, working alongside the Winona School District as an interpreter for Hmong parents. Nue received Health Realization training at The Link.

Samantha Ruiz-Gross, Case Manager

sruizgross@visi.com

612-767-4474

Samantha is currently completing her Associates Degree at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. She has also worked with MAD DADS of Urban Ventures, as well as with community outreach and women's domestic violence groups at African American Family Services. Samantha currently serves on the Youth Board of Shiloh Temple, and is also completing a 15-month Youth Leadership Training program.

Ifrah Esse, Case Manager

iesse@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4473

Ifrah joined The Link in the summer of 2007 as Youth for Justice Intern. After completing her BA degree in Sociology at the University of Minnesota, Ifrah came back to The Link as a Project Potential Case Manager. She enjoys working with youth and is learning about and implementing Health Realization in her everyday life.

Tim Rasmussen, Case Manager

trasmussen@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4472

The Link welcomes Tim Rasmussen as our new Project Potential Case Manager!

Megan Sherwin, Gang Prevention Case Manager

msherwin@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4477

Megan graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology. While living in Seattle Megan completed undergraduate research in Developmental Psychology; focusing on depression and co-occurring behaviors at Children's Health Institute. Megan also conducted research with Reconnecting Youth at the University of Washington. Megan currently works as a Youth Counselor at Hearthstone of Minnesota in addition to working with The Link as a Gang Prevention Case Manager.

Darrell Young, Gang Prevention Case Manager

dyoung@thelinkmn.org

612-767-4476

The Link welcomes Darrell Young as our new Gang Prevention Manager!

Hana Berlin, In-School Case Manager

hberlin@thelinkmn.org

612-668-1642

Hana graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.A. in Journalism. Hana moved from Chicago to Minneapolis in September 2005 to pursue her Masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Saint Mary's University. She will graduate in December 2007 and plans to continue to work with at-risk youth.

In-School Case Manager

The Link is currently hiring for this position.

JUVENILE SUPERVISION CENTER STAFF

S. Jason Carver, Juvenile Supervision Center Manager

jcarver@thelinkmn.org

612-673-5995

Jason joined The Link as a Truancy Case Manager/Youth Advocate four years ago, and then worked as the Community Relations Assistant for the Minnesota Timberwolves for over a year. He rejoined The Link as a Case Manager for Lindquist Apartments, and has moved to the position of Juvenile Supervision Center Manager. Jason brings with him a passion for working with youth, young adults, and people from different walks of life. Jason earned a Bachelors Degree from Aquinas College and received Health Realization training at The Link.

Conchetta DeLeon, Direct Service Advocate

cdeleon@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5991 (vm)

Conchetta obtained her Bachelors of Science Degree in Sociology with a minor in criminal Justice at University of Wisconsin River-Falls. As a student Conchetta spent her time volunteering with different agencies around the Twin Cities and in Wisconsin. She then went on to intern with Hennepin County Juvenile Probation, and was soon offered a full time Juvenile probation officer position. Conchetta then joined The Link as a Gang Intervention Case Manager, then moved to the Juvenile Supervision Center. Conchetta received Health Realization training at The Link.

Sai Vang, Direct Service Advocate

svang@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5987(vm)

Before coming to the Link, Sai spent a year in South Korea teaching English. Prior to that, she organized a youth lead higher education campaign for new immigrants. During her free time, Sai can be seen photographing the Hmong community. Sai received Health Realization training at The Link.

Tiana Hall, Direct Service Advocate

thall@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5989(vm)

Tiana obtained her Bachelors of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. After graduation, she was employed as a Transitional Caseworker with juveniles transitioning out of Red Wing correctional facility. Shortly thereafter, Tiana became a Direct Service Advocate at the Juvenile Supervision Center. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Human Service and Criminal Justice Leadership. Tiana brings to The Link a passion for restorative justice and a commitment to making a difference with youth. Tiana received Health Realization training at The Link.

Jaqueline McAdory, Direct Service Advocate

jmcadory@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5986(vm)

Mohamed Muse, Direct Service Advocate

mmuse@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5983(vm)

Mohamed obtained his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Prior to Joining The Link, he worked at the Juvenile Detention Center in Minneapolis. He also volunteered at the Legal Rights Center helping Somali clients with their cases. Mohamed received Health Realization training at The Link.

Jamel Raspberry, Direct Service Advocate

jraspberry@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5984(vm)

Jamel obtained his Bachelors Degree from Minnesota State University in Moorhead. Jamel is dedicated to coaching, teaching, leading and preparing the youth for the future. Jamel also enjoys DJ-ing, basketball, football, drumming, dancing, and preserving the old school Hip Hop culture. Jamel received Health Realization training at The Link.

Tamara Shaw, Direct Service Advocate

tshaw@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5990(vm)

Tammy is Native American and originally from South Dakota. She has worked in the Early Childcare /Youth setting for almost 22 years. She attended the University of Minnesota and earned a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education. Tammy has worked with at-risk youth and their families in the native communities for the last six years. She is also involved in bringing the native language back into the schools starting at the preschool level.

Jennifer Zacher, Direct Service Advocate

jzacher@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5985(vm)

Jennifer graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI with a double major in Criminology/Law Studies and Philosophy. Her previous work experience includes working with chemically dependent adults in a drug and alcohol outpatient program that focused on health realization concepts. Most recently she worked with youth as a juvenile correctional officer at the Juvenile Detention Center in Minneapolis.

Winter Blanchard, Program Aide

wblanchard@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5992(vm)

Anthony Jackson, Program Aide

ajackson@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5993(vm)

Anthony Jackson has been working with at-risk kids for more than a decade. He has also worked with various organizations including the Bridge for Runaway Youth, Project Foundation, and Emerge. He received an Associates Degree in Chemical Dependency from Minneapolis Community College. Anthony is very passionate about his work and the kids he serves. Anthony received Health Realization training at The Link.

Kenny Smith, Program Aide

ksmith@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5994(vm)

Kenny graduated from the University of Concordia in Milwaukee with a Bachelors Degree in Management and a minor in Communication. He has worked with at-risk youth for over ten years. Kenny also has taught 7th grade science, advocated for youth within the court system and has a range of other case management experience. Kenny received Health Realization training at The Link.

Amy Anderson, Direct Service Advocate

aanderson@thelinkmn.org

612-673-LINK (main line)

612-673-5995(vm)

The Link welcomes Amy Anderson as our new Direct Service Advocate!

LINDQUIST APARTMENTS STAFF

Erin Wixsten, Lindquist Apartments Program Manager

ewixsten@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1672

Erin is the Program Manager for Lindquist Apartments. For over 6 years, Erin worked as a supervisor, case manager and advocate for at-risk and homeless youth in schools, homes, and the community, and she has focused specifically on program development. Erin attended the University of Minnesota and Metro State University focusing on Family and Social Science.

Kayla Dotson, Lindquist Case Manager

kdotson@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1668

Prior to joining the Link, Kayla worked for two years at a refugee resettlement agency helping adults, youth, and families who have escaped persecution start a new life in America. She received a Bachelors Degree in Global Studies from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Kayla enjoys working with youth and is very passionate about homelessness and affordable housing.

Katie Haas, Lindquist Case Manager

khaas@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1669

Always torn between city life and the wilderness, Katie never doubts her love of working with youth. She spent several summers guiding young women on canoe adventures in Canada through YMCA Camp Menogyn. She graduated from the College of Saint Benedict, and she spent time doing community development work in a South African township and a semester in Minneapolis studying with HECUA and the Welfare Rights Committee.

April Preston, Independent Living Skills Coordinator

apreston@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1670 X2263

April is from St. Paul. She received her B.A. in psychology at Grambling State University. She is currently working on her master's in Marriage and Family Therapy at St. Mary's University. April enjoys working with youth and families, she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Olive Williams, Front Desk

owilliams@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1670

Olive is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and earned a B.S. in Housing and Urban Studies. She has also studied at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota. With over 15 years experience, Olive possesses a great deal of knowledge in the areas of human services and is familiar with urban issues and delivering services to a diverse population.

Edward Miller, Front Desk

emiller@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1670

Edward has been working with youth for over 20 years. He has experience with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation board with a wide variety of youth groups and programs. He has been a Phat Summer Coordinator, a mentor with Prospective Advocacy, and a youth worker at Hospitality House. His long term goal is to continue his education and pursue a degree in Youth and Recreation.

Shereese Myers, Front Desk

smyers@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1670

Shereese worked for 12 years in management as a Market Supply Manager/Account Executive. Shereese attended Northeastern Illinois University, majoring in Communications and minoring in Business Management. Shereese is currently a Board Member for Northwest Community Revitalization Corporation, a program whose mission is homeownership for low-moderate income families in the Northwest Suburbs. Shereese is also a Work Skills Coach/Instructor for Twin Cities Rise!

Denise Olatayo, Front Desk

dolatayo@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1670

Rachon Conner, Overnight Staff

rconner@thelinkmn.org

612-287-1670

Rachon has been working in the social service field for 10 years, and began at the Salvation Army Harbor Lights working with vulnerable adults in a shelter setting. This past experience has given Rachon the opportunity to interact with those in desperate need. Rachon plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work, and enjoys spending time with her thriving 14 year-old son.