

Winter 2008



What's inside:
More Housing for Youth, New Alternatives to Detention for Youth,
Our New Headquarters, and Volunteers!

THE **Link**

NEWSLETTER

Commissioner Gail Dorfman speaks at the Grand Opening of the Juvenile Supervision Center. Mayor R. T. Rybak and County Attorney Mike Freeman also spoke on the importance of this new service.



Homeless Youth in Dakota County Will Have a Place to Call Home in 2009

Youth homelessness is a growing concern in Dakota County. On October 26, 2006, 25 youth ages 18-21 were homeless—according to a Wilder Research survey in Dakota County. Unfortunately, there is no single-site supportive housing program for youth in the county.

In mid 2009, The Link will open a new housing facility with Dakota County Community Services which will provide permanent supportive housing to homeless and disabled youth ages 16 and up.

Thousands of Youth Receive Alternative to Detention Prevention is Key at The Link's Juvenile Supervision Center

On January 7th, The Link became the service provider for the Juvenile Supervision Center. Youth ages 10-17 who have been picked up for truancy, curfew, or minor violations are brought to the JSC. JSC provides a safe and supervised space for youth until they are returned to their home or school. JSC provides services and connections to resources that halt youths' progress into the juvenile justice system and increase connections to school and positive behaviors. Staffed 24/7/365 by 13 experienced and diverse individuals, the facility serves approximately 60 youth each week.

Cover Photography by Karolina Karlic and Steve Ozone. Appearing in the photo are Nue Xiong, Case Manager, and a client of Project Potential.

Located in Eagan, this housing program will offer 24 efficiency apartments. Residents will receive safe housing, intensive case management, education, group activities, and health and wellness advocacy. Residents work closely with Case Managers to develop goals and objectives that will lead them to self-sufficiency.



The Link's New HQ

In the fall of 2007 we officially moved into our new offices at 1210 Glenwood Ave. The two-story building lies just outside of downtown and has been renovated into a warm and inviting environment. With the additional space, we gain the capacity to grow and accommodate our expanded services. As we hoped, the building is quickly becoming more than just an office and is transitioning into a youth community center. Some of the big attractions: a new youth room and kitchen, and a future youth technology center! If you haven't seen it, stop by for a quick tour and marvel at this great space.



Thanks to support from individual contributors, community partners, and corporations and foundations, The Link has grown to meet the needs of 750% more youth and families since 2004. In the last four years, The Link has added new programs to enhance youth success, more staff to work with specific populations, and more space to accommodate our new services. Here's how far we've come!

	2004	2008
Number of Staff	9	41
Number Served	665	5,000*
Annual Budget	\$597,656	\$1,863,491
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Project Potential 2) Building Supportive Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Project Potential 2) Building Supportive Communities 3) Lindquist Apartments 4) Juvenile Supervision Center 5) Community Outreach 6) Supportive Group Activities
The Link's Space	3,300 square feet	8,000 square feet at four locations

*estimated

THE
link building
supportive
communities
for youth

1210 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612.871.0748
thelinkmn.org

The Link's mission is to build a supportive community network that links youth and their families to their inner strength through life skills, education, advocacy, supportive housing, and a dynamic network of social services to transform lives.

We Thank Our Volunteers For Their Support!



We need 5th grade daytime tutors! 612-767-4470