



## Providing Pathways to End Youth Homelessness

**HOPE 4 Youth** is a nonprofit organization in Anoka County that helps young people, ages 16 to 24, who are experiencing homelessness. Our name is an acronym for our core services: Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education/Employment.



WELCOME

### Dear friends of HOPE 4 Youth,

Thank you for your belief in our mission and the support you've provided with your time, talent, testimony, and treasure. With your help, we've weathered the pandemic and strengthened our resolve to end youth homelessness for every young person who walks through our doors.

In 2021, we saw a 45% increase in visits to the HOPE 4 Youth Drop-In Center. We provided more than 1,100 hours of case management that offered life-changing resources, connections, and pathways to renewed hope.

We were able to do this through committed volunteers and nearly 9,500 donors who fueled programs for the youth we serve. In the year ahead, we will continue to provide basic needs support, and focus on key services fostering stable housing, education, employment, and social and emotional well-being.

Youth are often the least visible yet the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. Our ability to create pathways of change has never been more important. As we look into the future, we recognize the world has evolved since our doors opened in 2013 — and we're changing with it.

In the time since I joined HOPE 4 Youth in September of 2021, I have met incredibly passionate people who embody our mission, vision, and core values. My primary goals are to enhance the powerful work already being delivered, strengthen relationships at all levels, and create a strengths-based culture with an eye toward talent retention.

Meanwhile, as we operationalize our three-year strategic plan, I am committed to amplifying our outreach through three strategic priorities:

- ▶ Deepen our impact through high quality, high-impact programs and services
- ▶ Create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization
- ▶ Strengthen business practices to support high performance

Thank you for your part in our journey. Together, we are making a difference!

In unending gratitude,



LaChelle Williams  
Executive Director  
HOPE 4 Youth





## OUR MISSION

To provide pathways to end youth homelessness

## OUR VISION

All youth will feel safe, valued, and supported while reaching their full potential. This begins with meeting their basic needs and leads to giving them the tools to thrive.

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

- Deepen our impact through high quality, high-impact programs and services
- Create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization
- Strengthen business practices to support high performance

## OUR CORE VALUES



### Resourceful

We collaborate to maximize resources and evolve to meet the changing needs of our participants and the community.



### Accountable

We operate with integrity and are accountable to our youth, volunteers, community, donors, and employees.



### Inclusive

We respect and embrace differences as a strength, allowing people to bring their full, authentic selves to HOPE 4 Youth.



### Hopeful

We communicate and operate with optimism and believe in a bright future for the youth we serve and our community.



### Compassionate

We serve and work with empathy and understanding to create a judgment-free environment.

“Last year, I was sleeping in a car. Now I am sheltered. You saved me!”



## OUR PROGRAMS

We serve 16- to 24-year-olds at risk of losing their housing and those already experiencing homelessness.

The HOPE 4 Youth **Drop-In Center** in Anoka is the hub for many of our services. It is a safe, non-judgmental place for all youth who are in need.

No appointment is necessary to visit for a hot meal, to get clothing or hygiene items, or to use the shower or laundry facilities. Case managers at the center connect young people to stable housing, health and wellness programs, education and employment opportunities, and more.

Our **HOPE Homes** program supports situations where a family friend, relative, or neighbor allows a young person to stay at their place to avoid being homeless. This program turns these couch-hopping situations into more structured agreements that are beneficial to the hosts and the young people who are living with them.

**HOPE Place** is our 12-unit transitional housing facility in Coon Rapids that offers supportive services to 18- to 24-year-olds who are experiencing homelessness. HOPE Place staff and community partners provide on-site case management, including education and employment guidance, aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and long-term success.

## OUR APPROACH

The young people we see at HOPE 4 Youth carry many burdens. We recognize that every young person is on their own journey — and no two stories are the same. We are one touchpoint on their personal journey. As such, we have a four-fold approach<sup>1</sup> when walking alongside youth:

- 1) Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):** Our staff are trained in TIC service delivery models. Rather than fixing what's wrong, we look at youth in terms of what has happened to them — specifically lived trauma. TIC helps us create safe spaces, build trust, and encourage youth to regain healthy responsibility.
- 2) Strengths-Based:** Many youth experiencing homelessness have been in ongoing survival mode or endured trauma that has removed their fundamental sense of choice. At intake, case managers empower young adults to set goals based on their strengths and areas where they can regain control for long-term self-sufficiency.
- 3) Client-Centered:** Effective solutions must be informed by the youth we serve. The Youth Advisory Council gives young adults the space to make recommendations for program improvement, especially related to including the voices of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth.
- 4) Harm Reduction:** Ending youth homelessness relies on the important framework of harm reduction, where we encourage youth goal setting to reduce the negative consequences of drug use, alcohol addiction, or other high-risk behaviors. Without judgment, we offer youth resources for improved sexual, mental, physical, and emotional health.

“Thank you  
for changing  
my life.”

<sup>1</sup> Informed by “Measuring Up: Youth-level Outcomes and Measures for Systems Response to Youth Homelessness” from the University of Chicago, and the 2014 publication “9 Evidence-Based Principles to Help Youth Overcome Homelessness”



## HOPE IN NUMBERS

In 2021, the **HOPE 4 Youth Drop-In Center** was a safe and welcoming place for 314 young people who needed help, a 45% increase over 2020.

► **Youth demographics:**

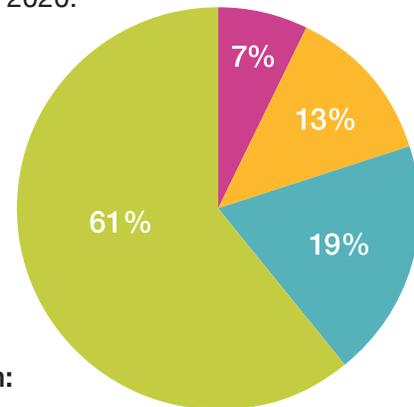
- 20% Under 18
- 20% Young parents
- 58% BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
- 56% Female
- 42% Male
- 19% LGBTQ+
- 2% Nonbinary

► **We provided 1,400 hours of case management to help youth:**

- Secure long-term housing, employment, and education
- Develop and maintain healthy connections
- Improve social and emotional well-being

► **Here are the many ways we offered support:**

- 29 Youth moved into stable housing
- 58 Youth got support to maintain housing
- 15 Youth and hosts got support for HOPE Homes arrangements



- Anoka County
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- Other counties

\$12,000+ in transportation assistance was provided for youth to get to classes, jobs, and appointments.

- 1,450 Individual lunch and dinners
- 1,422 Bags of free food and hygiene items
  - 120 Hot showers
  - 190 Loads of laundry
  - 840 Visits to our clothing closet
  - 250 Hours of internet access for job and school searches



**HOPE Place** was home to 22 young people in 2021.

- 9 Young people completed the program and moved into stable housing
- 10 New residents moved in and started working towards self-sufficiency
- 13 Residents worked on employment with the Anoka County Career Force

Our life-changing work is powered by an inspiring group of generous donors and volunteers who give money and time — and often both.

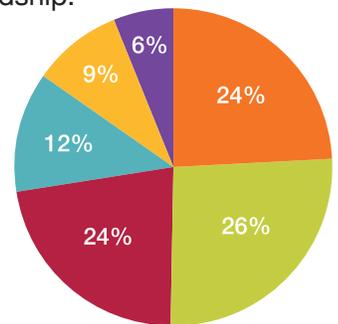


## 2021 FINANCIALS

HOPE 4 Youth is committed to transparency, efficiency, and good stewardship.

### Income

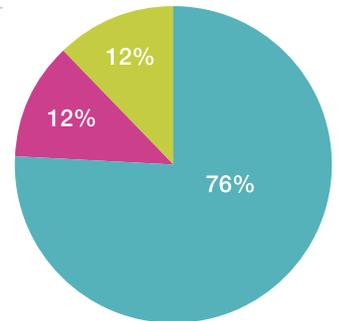
Businesses, Churches, and Civic Organizations	\$425,487.27
Contracts and Foundations	\$461,579.47
Individuals	\$384,864.19
Special Events	\$210,307.50
Earned Income and Investments	\$153,742.96
Gift In Kind	\$112,707.88
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,748,689.27</b>



**\$0.76 of every dollar** directly supports programming

### Expenses

Program	\$1,268,229.70
Fundraising	\$200,023.71
Management and General Expense	\$196,365.68
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,664,619.09</b>



## VOLUNTEERS ▶ Over 300 volunteers served a total of 10,500 hours valued at \$299,670

- **Drop-In Center**  
Providing meals, mentoring, sorting and restocking items donated, cleaning, administrative work
- **HOPE Place**  
Welcome Center, gardening, monthly activities
- **Treehouse**
- **Hope's Closet**
- **Special events and holiday drives**
- **One-time service projects**
- **Board of Directors**
- **Internships**



*"I volunteer at HOPE 4 Youth because I believe in their mission to provide a renewed and safe beginning for youth. They educate, provide resources and foster stability. Being a small part in this mission is the least I can do." Dana, volunteer*

## HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

We offer a hand up to at-risk young people and walk with them for a time as they rebuild their lives. How that support unfolds changes because hope looks different to each one of them. Here's several examples of our impact:

**F**aith was finally welcomed to HOPE Place in late 2021 after patiently waiting for a unit to open. Her journey started at the HOPE 4 Youth Drop-In Center where she worked with our case managers while waiting for safe housing. She was all smiles on move-in day, thinking about this new chapter in her life. “I’m not homeless anymore! I honestly can’t wait to decorate my own apartment and begin working on my other goals!”



**A** first-time youth visitor stopped by the HOPE 4 Youth Drop-In Center on a day when a hairstylist was donating her time and skills. The volunteer offered to do a cut and style for the young woman and she accepted. The stylist really pampered the teen by cutting her long, curly hair, conditioning it and straightening it — something the young woman had never tried. She was thrilled with the results.

Before she left that day, the young woman met with a caseworker, completed some preliminary paperwork and set some goals around getting into stable housing. She said she felt cared for at the center and had more confidence than when she had arrived.

**W**e connected with a family of young men after a school social worker shared the story of them living in an apartment without parents. The two younger brothers met the government’s definition of unaccompanied youth, even though they were staying with their adult brother.

Despite everyone pitching in, money was tight and the rent was past due. Our HOPE Homes program helped with a rent stipend and gift cards for gas and household supplies, so the family could stay together until middle brother Nicolas graduated and went off to college. We’re happy to report he’s doing well at college in Duluth.



**W**e offer fully prepared lunches and dinners to young people who visit. Just fill a plate and grab a chair — no questions asked. A volunteer named Steve says the meals create a place for young guests to be seen and heard by people who care. “They may not have a single trusted adult in their lives,” Steve says. “Often they just need some guidance. I think it’s an honor to be that person for these young people.”

One youth guest put it this way: “You listen and don’t project things on me. You are here for me, a safe space — something I’ve never had.”



## GET INVOLVED



### Volunteer

HOPE 4 Youth provides meaningful one-time and long-term volunteer opportunities that allow you to make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve.



### Donate Items

Many of our youth have little or nothing when they come to us. Being able to provide clothing, food, and other items helps restore a sense of hope, self-worth, and dignity.



### Give Monthly

The help we provide is made possible, in part, by generous donors who make monthly gifts of HOPE.

For more information on these opportunities, visit: [HOPE4YouthMN.org](https://HOPE4YouthMN.org)

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Linda Barnum** Controller, Restaurant Technologies



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### Contact Us

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