

From: Holly Woodhull <woodietoo76@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2017 6:45 PM
To: Bob Oganovic
Subject: The Link

Organization visited: The Link

Date of visit: March 15, 2017

Wells Foundation members visiting: Karen and Lee

Staff Person visited: Jen Becker, Development Director

The Link is a Minneapolis based non-profit organization that has spent more than 25 years working with at-risk youth. Their offices are located in the Lindquist Apartments in North Minneapolis where they provide supportive housing and homeless services to young people in need. The Lindquist Apartments offer 24 units of affordable safe and stable housing. An average of 36 youth per year live there while they continue education, prepare to be economically self-sufficient, and stabilize their mental, chemical, and physical health. They also connect with positive adults and learn many practical skills to be able to live independently. The Link also operates six other housing programs across the Twin Cities Area (with a total of 188 units) for youth and young families who are homeless.

Another important area in which The Link works is their Juvenile Justice program that provides support to young people who are at risk or who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system. The programs provide an alternative response to the juvenile justice system with the understanding that if the youth's basic needs are met, plus positive support and access to services, they will be less likely to be involved in criminal activity. The Juvenile Justice Center is located in the Minneapolis City Hall and is open 24 hours a day. Law enforcement drop off youth who have committed low level offenses. Staff from The Link provide advocacy for the youth and arrange for them to be returned to a safe environment as soon as possible. The object is to prevent continued involvement with the criminal justice system. School Matters is another program that provides case management and academic support for these at risk youth.

The Safe Harbor program is a third area of The Link's involvement. This program provides a continuum of services for sexually exploited youth. The Passageways Emergency Shelter and Housing Program provides crisis intervention and a safe place for victims of trafficking between the ages of 13 and 24 to live while specialized services, mental health therapy, and counseling are provided.

The Link appreciates donations of plain T-shirts, sweatshirts and pants, school supplies, diapers of all sizes, hair and hygiene products, and furniture and household goods.