

HOPE 4 YOUTH | 2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Providing Pathways to End Youth Homelessness



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

Dear Friends of HOPE 4 Youth,

Thank you for a powerful year of momentum, growth, and relevance. Your belief in our mission and trust in our ability to impact the lives of the youth we serve is making a difference. We are honored to work with you to ensure the young people we support experience HOPE. Together we are ending youth homelessness.

In 2022, we experienced a year like no other. We provided basic needs and empowering resources to 33% more youth than the previous year. The outcomes of our youth revealed mission-centered results, which you will find throughout this document. A highlight for all of us is 98% of our surveyed youth reported success or improvement in one or more areas related to stable housing, education, employment, connectedness, and mental health due to their work with HOPE 4 Youth. Another staggering fact for us is, last year 91 parenting youth came to us needing food, diapers, and training. These parenting youth had no one in their lives to help them understand the needs of their little ones and through your support, we were there. Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and community champions. Your time, talent, and donations allow us to move the needle for those needing a hand-up.

We are committed to three focused pillars in our work

1. Partnering in **prevention**
2. Providing **basic needs** to help stabilize youth
3. **Launch youth** through empowering programs and resources

Through our strategic vision and these three pillars, we are strengthening high-impact programs, collaborative partnerships, and an equitable culture to fulfill our mission.

As we turn the page to 2023, we celebrate 10 years of empowering youth. We celebrate those who believed in our mission in the past and those coming beside us today. Thank you for helping us provide life-changing resources which are ending homelessness for young people walking through our doors. Because of you, lives are changed, the future is bright, and HOPE is renewed.



In unending gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaChelle Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

LaChelle Williams
Executive Director
HOPE 4 Youth

OUR MISSION

OUR VISION

TO PROVIDE
PATHWAYS TO END
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

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 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.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

1

Deepen our impact through high quality, high-impact programs and services

2

Create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization

3

Strengthen business practices to support high performance

OUR PROGRAM

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

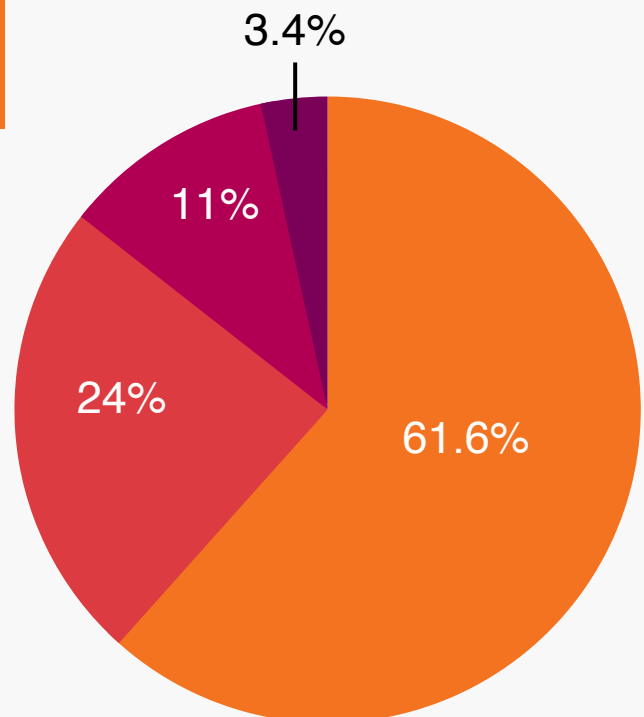
The HOPE 4 Youth **Drop-In Center** in Anoka is the hub for many of our services. It is a safe, non-judgmental place for all youth who are in need. No appointment is necessary to visit for a hot meal, to get clothing or hygiene items, or to use the shower or laundry facilities. Case managers at the center connect young people to stable housing, health and wellness programs, education and employment opportunities, and more.

Our HOPE 4 Youth **Host 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 4 Youth **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.

COUNTIES WE SERVE

- Anoka County
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- Other Counties



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 where no two stories are the same. We are one touchpoint on their personal journey. As such, we have a four-fold approach¹ when walking alongside youth:

- 1) **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):** Our staff is 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 provides 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.

In 2022, 415 youth made nearly 3,000 visits to our Drop-In Center, a 33% increase over last year.

22%	Young Parents
69%	BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
61%	Female
36%	Male
3%	Non-Binary
22%	LGBTQ+

¹ 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"

STORIES OF HOPE

In our 10 years as an organization, HOPE 4 Youth's priority has always been to meet youth where they are and provide pathways to help them end their experience with homelessness.

Every individual's story is unique with a variety of obstacles they have faced as a young adult. We believe in providing youth with resources and programs to help them learn, grow, and thrive.

The following stories provide a glimpse into some of the struggles and triumphs youth have experienced. HOPE 4 Youth has a direct impact in assisting youth to reach their goals and follow their dreams.

STORIES OF HOPE

Skylar came to HOPE 4 Youth shortly after finding out she was pregnant. She struggled to find stable work and long-term housing for her and her future child.

22% of youth are parenting

²

She began to meet with a HOPE 4 Youth Case Manager and received one-on-one support two-four times a week.

1,212 hours of one-on-one support provided

The resources the Case Manager provided Skylar allowed her to attend regular prenatal visits, parenting classes, and access to food, clothing, and health support. With the help of a job coach, Skylar was able to find a stable job she now enjoys.

Next, Skylar began her apartment hunt. This process took close to eight weeks. Eventually, she found an apartment that was both available and within her budget. Through the Housing Stability Fund, HOPE 4 Youth was able to fund her deposit and first month's rent. Skylar is proud to call this apartment her new home!

78% of youth have obtained or maintained stable housing in the last 6 months.

²



"I would have been in shelters my entire pregnancy and longer without the support of HOPE 4 Youth. I feel ready to have my child and I feel like I have people to lean on at HOPE 4 Youth that care about us."

STORIES OF HOPE



James has been coming to HOPE 4 Youth for nearly 18 months. He was struggling with mental health, substance abuse, and was sleeping outside for extended periods. The last time a Case Manager saw James he said, "I'm at the lowest point I have ever been and I don't know if I can get through this."

A few days later, James checked himself into the hospital to receive detox and psychiatric support. Three months later, James stopped by the Drop-In Center to report he was over 100 days sober, physically healthy, and completed both inpatient and outpatient for his mental health and substance abuse concerns.

"I know I'm not perfect and have messed up a lot, but I know I can do this now and I will not quit until I have the life I want."

98%

of youth surveyed reported success or improvement in one or more goal areas related to stable housing, education, employment, connectedness, mental health and coping with stress.

2

69%

of youth feel their mental health has improved in the last 6 months.

2

STORIES OF HOPE

Emma relied on HOPE 4 Youth during a pivotal time in her life. While working with her Case Manager, she found the support and resources needed to graduate from high school, obtain her driver’s license, and complete advanced training courses in healthcare. She now works in the healthcare field, attends college, and lives in her own apartment.



35% of youth surveyed made advancements in educational goals in the last 6 months. ²



Mateo was chosen to be part of the HOPE Place program two years ago. He recently contacted a HOPE 4 Youth staff to share, “You did a lot for me. At the time, I didn’t realize how much you changed my life. You believed in me. The support you gave me helped me to become strong and solve problems on my own. HOPE 4 Youth helped me create a stable life while showing me compassion when I messed up. You always encouraged me, and because of this, I am on the right path. You were there when no one else was.” Mateo ended the conversation by encouraging HOPE 4 Youth to “keep doing what you’re doing because you really are changing lives.”

78% of youth feel their resilience to cope with stress and unforeseen situations has improved in the last 6 months. ²

84% of youth reported since engaging in H4Y, they have had no encounters with the justice system or less (frequent) encounters than prior to working with H4Y. ²

84% of youth have developed healthier, better lasting relationships with family, friends, and other adults in the last 6 months. ²



SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

DROP-IN CENTER



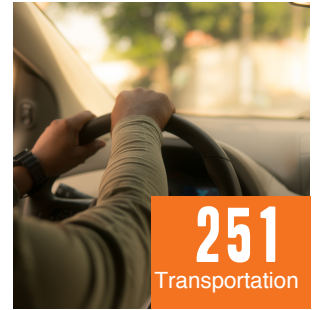
928
Hours of One-on-One Support



2,012
Food Pantry Visits



1,501
Meals



251
Transportation



309
Load of Laundry



135
Hot Showers



1,016
Clothing Closet Visits

HOPE PLACE



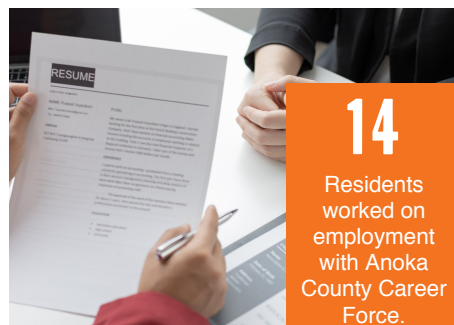
284
Hours of One-on-One Support



Home to
27
young people in 2022.



10
Young people completed the program and moved to stable housing.



14
Residents worked on employment with Anoka County Career Force.



14
New residents moved in and started working towards self sufficiency.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

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

1,185 Individual Donors

381 Organization and Business Donors

Over **301** volunteers served a total of **10,926 HOURS** valued at **\$327,234**

Location Served:

- 3,882 hours at Drop-In Center
- 512 hours at Drop-In Center Meals
- 3,225 hours at Donation Center
- 493 hours at Hope's Closet
- 481 hours of Internships
- 1,888 hours for One-Time Projects
- 445 hours of Community Leadership

2022 FINANCIALS

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

\$0.77 of every dollar directly supports our youth

Income

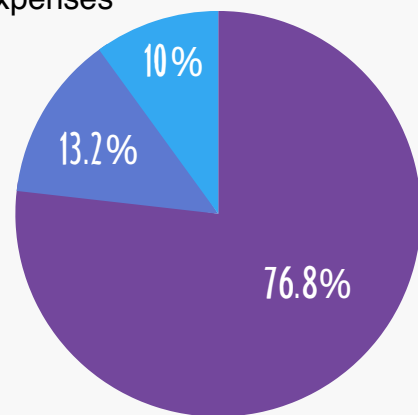
\$1,734,527
Total Income



- \$351,104 Individuals
- \$350,090 Businesses, Faith Based, & Civic Organizations
- \$426,731 Foundations & Government
- \$251,178 Special Events
- \$200,566 Earned Income & Investments
- \$154,858 Gift in Kind

Expenses

\$1,686,433
Total Expenses



- \$1,295,959 Program
- \$222,405 Fundraising
- \$168,069 Management & General

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

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jonathan (J.J.) Slag | Member
VP Development, MN Adult & Teen Challenge

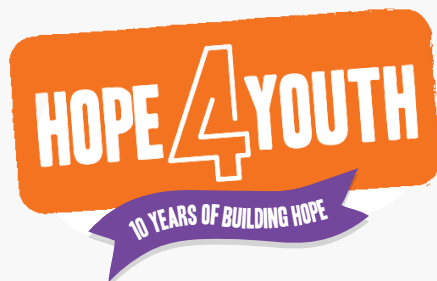
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Paul Lenzmeier | Member
Commander, Anoka County Sheriff's Office



CONTACT US

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Call: 763.323.2066

HOPE4YouthMN.org

Drop-In Center & Donations Center

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Anoka, MN 55303

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Coon Rapids, MN 55448