HOPE 4 Youth is a non-profit, suburban drop-in center serving youth 23 and under experiencing homelessness in Anoka County.
Mission
Serving youth experiencing homelessness through Housing, Outreach, Prevention and Education.

Vision
That 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.

Goal
To end youth homelessness in Anoka County by 2024.
Dear Fellow Community Members,

It is with great honor that I am able to reflect on the second calendar year of HOPE 4 Youth’s existence in Anoka County. The very incredible generosity, compassion, and commitment from the community has created a laser focus on our mission of serving the needs of our young people. Our viability comes from believing in the potential of the youth we serve to discover their intrinsic worth and self-reliance.

Even if we are marked as a new organization, our cause is deep-rooted. Our mission is to serve youth experiencing homelessness through Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education. Our vision is that all youth will feel safe, valued, and supported while meeting their full potential. This begins with meeting their basic needs and leads to giving them the tools to thrive.

I think back on 2014 as a year of accelerated growth for HOPE 4 Youth, and I do not necessarily mean that in the conventional way that businesses strive for expansion. Our long-term vision is not to grow HOPE 4 Youth as a drop-in center. Our goal is to end youth homelessness in Anoka County by 2024; eradicating the need for our basic services. In this one year, we recorded 7,016 visits into our drop-in center from 319 unique youth. Given the demand, we quickly moved from a start up to an adolescent organization. With that came many successes, but also a few constructive growing pains – both of which will be further described in this Annual Report.

Given the learning curve and natural lifecycle of a new non-profit, we acted both proactively and reactively to the trials we faced. We invested in robust database systems that allow us to better serve our clients and volunteers. We built sustainable partnerships with donors and community officials that will allow for us to execute major development plans related to our future housing model. We connected with major institutions that will help fund programming in the center. We partnered with renowned agencies in Minnesota to offer a strong portfolio of prevention, education, and health resources for our youth. We on-boarded hundreds of volunteers, a full staff team, and a strong board.

With your help, our drop-in center will be out of business in nine years. Let’s start the countdown.

I am humbled to have the opportunity to be a part of such an important effort and do not have words to describe my respect and gratitude for the youth, volunteers, and staff that have dedicated themselves to solving the problems our young people face.

Serving by your side,

Brian Swanson
Board of Directors Chair
Every afternoon when we open our doors to the homeless and at-risk youth living in our community, we are reminded of why HOPE 4 Youth was established. In 2013, upon learning that youth homelessness had increased by 39% in just one year in Anoka County, we couldn’t turn away. And now, a year and a half later, we watch an average of 20 young people steadily visiting the HOPE 4 Youth drop-in center every day – proving the dire need to strengthen our vision and give this fight a chance.

When they arrive at our door, young people in transition need a community that understands the challenges facing them and can guide and support them through the process of rebuilding their lives. In order to foster the personal growth and development of our youth, we recognized the need to cultivate a strong foundation of support, aligned with the key pillars of our organizational mission: Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education. We grew our team, our coalition of community ambassadors, and our vision.

A young woman came to HOPE 4 Youth and was so overwhelmed by all of the resources available to her, she broke down crying. “I can’t believe you have all of this for me. Thank You.”

**H – Housing**

In order to meet our goal to end youth homelessness in Anoka County by 2024, we first needed to find a solution for meeting the basic needs of those at-risk in our community. The next logical step was to assess and rectify the youth-centric shelter and housing crisis in Anoka County. When the doors of the drop-in center close at 7:00 pm on weekdays, and at 4:00 pm on weekends, the youth find themselves back on the streets. There are no youth shelters in Anoka County for them to regain warmth and safety afterhours.

**2014: THE YEAR OF GROWTH**

IN 2014, WE PROVIDED BASIC NEEDS SUPPLIES AND SERVICES ON

6,439 VISITS

HOPE 4 YOUTH PROVIDED

3,163 FOOD, CLOTHING AND HYGIENE ITEMS

539 SAFE SEX SUPPLIES

72 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCES

124 GIFT CARDS AND

2,541 SERVICES RELATED TO MEALS, COMPUTERS, SHOWERS, LAUNDRY SURVIVAL BAGS AND OUTDOOR SUPPLIES
We built strong alliances in 2014 with the YMCA to support the Communities Host Homes program, where we helped two homeless youth connect with caring adults to provide them with safe housing and support. We also built tight partnerships with Stepping Stones and Anoka County to place our youth in emergency beds locally.

But short-term fixes alone are not enough. At the end of 2014, HOPE 4 Youth announced a bold challenge to the community that would result in pledges totaling $1 million for the Rooms 4 Youth Transitional Housing project. We are continuing to raise money to purchase, reconstruct, and staff a building where homeless youth, ages 18-23, can spend the night. Our vision is that by early 2016, we will have transitional housing in place, with a future vision to build supportive, affordable apartments for the youth in transition there.

---

**Outreach**

In 2014, HOPE 4 Youth sustained its membership with the StreetWorks Collaborative. Thanks to this partnership and the McKnight Foundation (via the Family Housing Fund and the Metro Youth Systems Redesign Council), we were able to hire three part time Outreach Workers to work in the field, identifying and helping young people throughout Anoka County experiencing homelessness.

The contract with the StreetWorks Collaborative is terminating at the end of 2014 and therefore, we needed to find alternate resources to keep our outreach program funded. At the Gala 4 Youth in November, we were able to raise $10,275 through our Fund-A-Need program! This funding will go towards hiring a full-time youth and community specialist (YAC) at the drop-in center in 2015 to provide direct case management, resources, and school based outreach to homeless and runaway youth in Anoka County. Our model shifted in response to the high need of youth who have experienced homelessness longer than 30 days and have significant barriers to employment, education, medical/mental health care, and supportive/permanent housing.

The YAC, in conjunction with the program supervisor, will also be able to provide site-based community services to at-risk youth in schools, community centers, teen centers, libraries, and other youth agencies. Together, they will also continue to build programs and systems of referral that will encourage lasting self-reliance for our youth.
2014: THE YEAR OF GROWTH

In 2015, we plan to partner with the leadership team at the Emma B. Howe YMCA in Coon Rapids in a county-wide, street-based outreach effort to “meet youth where they are at” and offer supportive services and resources.

A young woman was standing on the corner of Ferry and Hwy 10, barefoot and holding a sign. We received several calls from our wonderful supporters, and an outreach worker was able to bring her water, shoes and other basics. She broke down crying, “Thank you for helping me.”

P – Prevention

In 2014, we followed a prevention model that focused on proven strategies in five key areas:

1. Increased Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement

“No decision about me, without me.” In youth development, it is the gold standard to honor this request spoken by our young clients. In 2014, HOPE 4 Youth convened the Youth Advisory Council with a mission of empowering leaders to help shape HOPE 4 Youth into a thriving community, and instill confidence and self-realization of value in our youth. Also, to become a part of the statewide effort to end homelessness, HOPE 4 Youth joined the Heading Home Anoka committee to bring youth voices into the conversation around needs for housing, employment, and education.
2014: THE YEAR OF GROWTH

“2. Increased Access to Stable and Affordable Housing
Due to funding support by the McKnight Foundation, we were able to activate a housing pilot program where we placed nine youth in permanent, stable housing during the cold months of winter. This number may sound small given the 300+ youth that came through our doors in 2014, but it is actually a very significant feat. Along with rent assistance, we worked with the youth to develop skills to maintain their apartments long-term. See the housing section for Rooms 4 Youth plans and more 2014 housing services and referral statistics.”

– HOPE 4 Youth Client

3. Increased Economic Security
We are working with Anoka Work Force Center to develop a partnership that will bring in their expertise for onsite job training, resume building, and mock interview curriculum in the drop-in center on a monthly base. We are also developing a more robust on-site independent living skills curriculum for our youth, and paving the way to more scholarship opportunities in 2015.

4. Improved Health and Stability
We are happy to report that the wellness center on the first floor on the drop-in center is fully constructed and up and running! The wellness program, in partnership with Allina, is open every Saturday with professionals onsite to give health provider referrals, nutrition assessments, chiropractic and reiki services, aromatherapy, and sexual health education. HOPE 4 Youth is also piloting walk-in counselors and licensed therapist to offer support groups.

5. Transformed Homeless Crisis Response System
We operate on a continuum care model; providing touchpoints on the spectrum for youth to access care. We are unique in that our doors are open 7 days a week, as we understand that difficult times do not take holidays. The most significant way that we followed the Transformed Homeless Crisis Response System in 2014 was teaching accountability to the youth in the housing pilot program. Rent and deposits were not just paid without responsibility; the youth were provided case management services to assist them with independent living skills such as: goal setting, budgeting, and healthy relationship building. They learned how to be liable tenants,

“I can remember seeing youth in a time of need outside of HOPE. I never had a problem helping, whether it being something to eat, somewhere to sleep, or just someone to walk or talk with them. I have shown the true spirit of leadership all while still facing homelessness myself.”

– HOPE 4 Youth Client

138 Youth received Independent Living Skills services in 2014.

Education services and referrals were given to 175 youth.

“I’d like to be a part of a forward group, helping youth reach their goals. I want to educate myself and pursue a higher set of expectations, encourage other youth in any adverse situation, to give them aid in reaching their goals. Most of all, I want to set a standard of ‘being the BEST you can be!’”

– HOPE 4 Youth Client
and how to handle conflict responsibly. If a youth had a prior eviction or housing loss, discussion around what created the loss of housing occurred and proactive planning was done to create a more stable housing situation and to prevent repeat episodes of homelessness. In 2015, we plan to form more intentional relationships with the Anoka County housing partners and the YMCA “Coordinated Entry” process.

“This past week I was talking to one of the young people we journey beside at HOPE 4 Youth and he was saying how hard it is for him to go to work each day. He works at Super America and they don’t give him enough hours. His last paycheck was only $65.00 for two weeks. He wants to quit NOW but he told me he will stick with it another three or four months to build his resume and THEN move on once he secures a better job... We talked about how hard it is to just ‘show up’ when many days you wake up and want to just curl up and stay under the covers. I am happy to say that this young man (homeless just five months ago) is now in a two year transitional living program and HAS an apartment and a bed to wake up IN!”

– HOPE 4 Youth Volunteer

**E – Education**

In 2014, HOPE 4 Youth provided 36 youth with education services and referrals. The center mentors worked with the youth on GED coursework, college preparatory paperwork and goal planning. It was always a shining day when a youth came in with a college acceptance letter! Throughout the year representatives from the Workforce Center, Children’s Mental Health, Child and Teen Check Up, SNAP, Anoka County Library, YMCA, and other community agencies visited HOPE 4 Youth to educate the youth. We also offered parenting and prenatal education, as several of our youth have young children of their own.

In addition to providing education resources to our youth, we also developed advanced training modules for our volunteers and staff to help prepare them for sensitive situations at the Center, and teach them best practices around confidentiality, conflict resolution, and boundaries. Ongoing training will include expert-run courses on trauma informed care,
“A young man came to us last year dealing with major challenges along with homelessness. While connecting with our mentors, he shared his story of abuse in his past, and how he had decided to take charge of his life. He completed a resume with our volunteers, and was hired within a week.

“Last week, he returned to Hope 4 Youth to visit. He was promoted at his job, and now has his own house! He came to personally thank us, and spend time with the youth, sharing his story of triumph over adversity.” – HOPE 4 Youth Volunteer

CPR/First Aid, and ADD – as well as diversity trainings focused on working with communities of color, LGBT, and mental/chemical health for youth.

Our goal is to work with our center mentors to develop rapport with the youth in order to complete the intake and assessments process; provide referrals to youth service providers; provide sexual, mental, chemical health information and education; advocate for and with youth as they access and utilize community resources and services; as well as distribute basic needs and supplies to youth.

DATABASE IMPLEMENTATIONS:
Youth and Services, Donors, and Volunteers

Other significant points of growth and advancement were the implementations of our various database systems at HOPE 4 Youth. These systems are streamlining operational efficiencies and protecting the integrity of our client, donor and volunteer data. In 2014, as the number of clients and volunteers we had at the center more than doubled, we endured some growing pains. We are now taking every measure to ensure every service is accounted for, and every volunteer is onboarded in a timely fashion.

The new Youth and Services database makes it easier for us to service our youth. It eliminates hours spent managing a paper based system. It also allows for readily available information to the people directly serving our youth. We are still working on training our volunteers so that we can report the most accurate data to our donors and community followers. Support given to us by our generous donors is now captured within our Donor database. This allows us to easily maintain records of donations, communicate with our donors, and acknowledge donations in a timely manner. It also ensures our 501c3 compliance.

The third database is for our volunteers. The Volunteer database ensures we connect our more than 1,100 volunteers to the opportunities that best fit their skills and desires while effectively meeting the needs of our youth. It will also help us refine our volunteer processes in an effort to improve the volunteer experience. Our new Volunteer Coordinator will manage this system to ensure “no volunteer is left behind!”
CALL OUT TO VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

The first ever, fabulously attended 2014 Rum River Music Fest benefitting HOPE 4 Youth was a smashing success! This was ALL thanks to our key sponsors and volunteers. We estimate it costs $1,000 each quarter to serve ONE young person. Your participation and contribution helped us move 60 young clients toward a better life.

HOPE 4 Youth had $100 in the bank in November 2012. Thanks to the relentless fighters in our community, in 2014 our budget exceeded $200,000 to support our mission, services and programming for our youth as they defined their values and goals. We cannot put a price on the 4,362 volunteer hours that were recorded in 2014! The most amazing people of our community spent time at HOPE 4 Youth advocating for our youth by serving as center mentors; managing our data to protect the confidentiality of our youth; leading fundraisers and food drives; managing our donation center which brought in a whopping 32 TONS of donations; serving hot meals to our youth and volunteers EVERY DAY; and planning for our future transitional housing program.

We would be remiss not to call out a key financial contributor in 2014. Eagle Brook Church created a fantastic video, featuring a wonderful young woman, Trinity. Pastor Bob Merritt asked each “Eagle Brooker” to give $25 to charities with the goal of raising $400,000 for local and international charities. They raised an enormous $618,000 in ONE weekend.

Please mark your calendars for the 2015 Rum River Music Fest on August 8th!
FINANCIAL HEALTH REPORT

**2014 Income**
- Contributions $428,000
- In Kind Contributions $176,000
- Investments $3,700
- Grants $212,000
- Development $217,000

Total Revenue $474,700

**Anticipated Income in 2015-2016 from pledges for Housing Option Fund:**
- Labor and Materials $26,000
- Financial $733,000

Total $1,237,000

**2014 Expenses**
- Program $432,000
- Development $92,000
- Administration $38,000

Total $562,000
Thank You To Our Donors!

Andover Parent, Teacher and Community Organization (APTCO)
Abundant Life Church
Advanced Automotive
At Home Foundation
AG Hair Products
AgStar Financial Services
Allina Health System
allnurses.com, Inc
Alpha Zeta Treasurer
AMC Arbor Lakes 16
American Family Mutual Insurance Company
American Legion Post #334
Andover Bowling Alley
Andover Christian Church
Andover Fire Station
Andover YMCA
Andrea Arabanos and Associates
Andy’s Service Auto Repair
Anoka County Chapter of Thrivent Financial
Anoka County Sheriff’s Office
Anoka Dairy Queen
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anoka High School Class of ’79
Anoka Masons
Anoka Massage Clients
Anoka Meat and Sausage
Anoka Middle School for the Arts
Anoka Pizza Man
Anoka Women of Today Applebee’s
Astin Mutual Insurance Company Foundation
B W Portrait Art
Bank Of Elk River
Bank of the West
Bell Mortgage
Billy’s Bar & Grill
Blaine Festival
Blaine Pizza Hut
Blaine Town Center Professional Karaoke Studios
Blaine United Methodist Church
Blaine’s Blazin 4th Inc
Byerly’s Foods
21st Century Bank
Adobe Offline Matching Grants
The John Roberts Company
Washburn-McReavy
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
WRG
Canadian Pacific
Carl and Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation
Cedar United Methodist Church
Cenakio Productions
CenterPoint Energy
Central Bank
Chanhassen Dinner Theater
Christ Lutheran Church
Christian Brothers Automotive
Church of St. Timothy
Clive’s Roadhouse
CoBank
Conference of Women in Real Estate
Connexis Energy
Coon Rapids Fire Department Station 1
Coon Rapids Northstar Lions Club
Coon Rapids United Methodist Church
Corporate Commission
Cosmo-Prof Kenra
Costco
Cozen O’Connor
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
CU Realty
CU Recovery, Inc
Culvers
Curves
Dahlheimer Beverage LLC/RJM Distributing
Dancin’ Feet Dance School, LLC
De-Cluttering and Organizing Services
Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Rho
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Downtown Anoka Subway
DSTI
Dynamic Sealing Technologies, Inc.
E. G. Rud & Sons, Inc.
Eagle Brook Church
ECM CAC
Edina Realty Foundation
Edward & Hannah Gustafson Foundation
Elk River Area COC
Enterprise Car Sales
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Environmental Resource Council
Fairview Andover Pediatrics
Faith Lutheran Church
Family Housing Fund
Famous Daves
Federal Premium Ammunition
First Minnesota Bank
First National Bank
Flaherty’s Bowling Center
Foresight Ministries
Forever Floral
Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage
Girl Scouts MN-RW TV Trop 16136
Glenn Cary Lutheran Church
Glimcher Properties LP
Go Youth International
Counsel Wealth Management, Inc.
Goodrich Pharmacy
Goose Lake Farm & Winery
Gorham Companies
Grace Lutheran Church
Grand Casino Hinckley
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Gutherie Theater
GWills liquor
Ham Lake Lions
Hansen Tree Farm
Haskell’s Maple Grove
Heartland Tire
HML dba Water Doctors
Hoffman Enclosures Inc
Hope Fellowship of Ramsey
Imperial Court of Minnesota
Independent PartyLite Consultant
Integrated Healthcare Strategies
International Fire Protection
Juneau Inc
Kai Cuts
Keller Dentistry
Keller Williams Classic Realty
Kiwanis Club of Coon Rapids
Kleen Bank
Knights of Columbus
Koolmo Construction, Inc.
Krista Artist
Kyle’s Collectibles
Landtitle
Liberty Comfort Systems
Liberty Title Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Lyric Arts Main Street Stage
Majestic Oaks Ladies League
Mail Of America
Marcus Theatre Corporation
Marriott NW Engineering Department
Mayer Electric Corporation
Mc Duffs
McCullough Companies
McKnight Foundation
Medtronic Merchant Services
Mickman Brothers
Midwest Promotional Marketing
Minnesota Masonic Charities
Minnesota Timberwolves
FastBreak Foundation
Minnesota Twins
Mister Hotshine
Minnesota Masonic Charities
Minnesota Vikings
MOMS Club of Blaine
MW 710, LLC
Nau Country
North Anoka Control Systems Inc
North Country Ford
North Metro Bizzy Women
North Suburban Women’s Club
Northeast Bank
Northgate Church
Northgate Liquors
Northstar Lions
Northtown Mall
Nothingbutcakes
Novak-Fleck, Inc.
Nucleus Clinic
OIL Holdings MN LLC
Outward/Redbox
PAE Sales Inc
Pentair Equipment Protection
Perkins Restaurant & Bakery
Peterson’s Shoes
Physical Therapy Consultants
Piper Jaffrey Community Relations
Pohlad Family Foundation
Potbelly Sandwich Shop
Premier Commercial Properties, LLC
Premium Carpet Installations, Inc.
Principal Financial Group
Purple Hawk
Quickway Rigging & Transfer, Inc.
Rachel Kraber’s Glass Designs
Razoo Foundation
Razzl Dazzl Hair Salon
RE/MAX Advantage Plus
Realtors Housing Foundation
Riverdale Travel
Rivertek Medical Systems Inc
Ron Schara Productions
Rotary Club of Anoka Minnesota
Rotary Club of Northwest Hennepin
Rotary Club of Ramsey Minnesota
Salon Centric
Schuler Shoes
Science Museum of Minnesota
Semler Homes, Inc.
Sign Station
Sons of Norway
Sons of Norway-Vermillion Lodge
Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church
Spirit of Grace Church
Spirit United Interfaith Church
Spitzley Enterprises, Inc.
St. Francis United Methodist Church
St. Francis United Methodist Women’s Group
St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church
St. Paul Saints Professional Baseball
State of Minnesota Dept of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity
StreetWorks Collaboration
Sunrise Banks
Supreme Lending
Swedish Crown Bakery
Sylvan Learning
Target Corporation
Tarter Park Golf Course
TCF National Bank
Technomark, Inc.
Terry O’Connor Plumbing
Tesla Motors
Texas Roadhouse Holdings, LLC
Thrivent Community North Central
Thrivent Financial for Luthernians Foundation
Ticknor Hill B & B
Tires Plus
Tom’s Flowers
Topline Credit Union
Toys For Joy Inc
TPC Twin Cities
Truck Writers, Inc.
Mackenzie Agency
Truffles & Tortes
Twin Cities Sports Collectors Club
Two Scoops
United Methodist Women
Unite
Valar
Village Bank
Waconia Dodge Chrysler Jeep
Waldco Farm & Garden Center
Walmart
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
Wells Fargo Bank
Wells Fargo Bank N.A., Anoka Branch
Wild Mountain
Woodland Development Corporation
Xperience Fitness
Your Heating and Air Conditioning
Company
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.hope4youthmn.org

2665 4th Ave N. • Suite 40 • Anoka, MN 55303
763-323-2066 • info@hope4youthmn.org