



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Here today. Here tomorrow.

LIFE HOUSE

Duluth

ren·o·vate \re-nə-vat\ transitive verb

1. to make repairs to (an old house, building, room, etc.) so that it is back in good condition
2. to restore to life, vigor, or activity [wholeness, well-being, potential, strength, vitality, function, productivity]

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

WITHOUT A DOUBT, the operative word for 2014 was renovation. A year of amazing transformation kicked off with a brand new logo designed by the talented team at Swim Creative. Inspired by the warmth and permanency of the sun, the logo reflects Life House's philosophy of never giving up on homeless and street youth.

THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER, the Youth Center was under construction. The result was a complete head-to-toe makeover including a new reception area and private intake office, beautifully updated kitchen, comfortable lounge area, rebuilt HVAC system, durable flooring and updated furnishings. The exterior of the building was updated as well, with enhanced security and attractive signage.

DESPITE THE DUST AND MESS, the Youth Center staff managed to keep the drop-in center open for business every day! In fact, visits to the Youth Center rose steadily in 2014, as did demand for basic essentials, particularly food. In response, Life House began serving lunch, on a trial basis, in September. The lunch program has been so popular that plans are to continue it indefinitely.

IN 2014, Life House also overhauled programming in the Youth Center, launching "Life Hacks" incentivized independent living skills classes and dozens of new activities, interest groups, and recreational opportunities. Just a few highlights include basketball, karaoke, trips to Valleyfair and the Mall of America, cooking camp, and of course, prom.

WITH ALL OF THESE GREAT CHANGES, the Youth Center is a much busier place – but it's also a much safer, more welcoming and more vibrant place. We are incredibly grateful to all who supported Life House and made these renovations possible. The result is a space that says to our youth, "You are important. You are worthwhile. You belong here."

Thank you wholeheartedly for being a part of the Life House family. We are looking forward to even greater things in 2015



Maude Dornfeld

Maude Dornfeld
Executive Director

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LifeHouseDuluth.org

2014 LIFE HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ABOUT LIFE HOUSE

We're not a business, we're a safety net. Without Life House, many young adults would be lost in the system or far worse. We're here to catch them when they fall, dust them off and show them another way.

We're pragmatic about the unique needs of each youth. We focus on keeping youth safe and alive while addressing the underlying issues. Like trauma, substance abuse, mental illness, grief, gang involvement, sexual exploitation, etc.

We use a team approach, providing comprehensive services. We know the problems our youth face are multifaceted, complicated, and are best solved by a team approach. Our youth have access to food, clothing, health, housing, employment, and education resources - all in one location.

WE NEVER GIVE UP ON OUR YOUTH.

When youth get in trouble at Life House, we always leave the door open. They are accustomed to being kicked out when they make a mistake; they are not accustomed to being welcomed back.

Since 1991, Life House has been providing unconditional support to hundreds of homeless and street youth every year, ensuring that no youth will be left homeless, alone, uncared for, or fending for themselves on the streets.

Our Youth Drop-In Center and primary services are located in the Life House Building, two blocks from the public transit center, downtown Duluth, MN. Life House services span the southern St. Louis County region.

We are reconnecting homeless and street youth to their dreams.

"I would be on the street or under a bridge. I would be hungry and helpless if it weren't for Life House to turn to. They were there for me. They cared."

~ Life House Youth

OUR THANKS

Life House would like to thank the more than 250 individuals and community organizations who contributed to the successes of our youth in 2014.

We could not do it without your continued support.

We would also like to thank the following foundations and organizations for their confidence in our programs and staff:

Anonymous Foundation	Foth & Van Dyke LLC	The Northland Foundation
Anytime Fitness	Four Star Construction	Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless
The Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Cathedral Cares Fund (Cathedral of our Lady of the Rosary)	Harbortown Rotary	Ordean Foundation
City Center Housing	Hearth Connection	RBC Foundation
City of Duluth	John Ivey Thomas and Mary Rees Thomas Family Foundation	Rotary 25
Cold Stone Creamery	Kiwanis Club of Friendly Duluth	St. Louis County
Cub Cares Community Foundation	Lahti Family Charitable Trust	State of Minnesota
CW Technology	Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation	TJX Foundation
Essentia Health Corporate Contributions	Medica Foundation	U.S. Bank Foundation
Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development	Miller Dwan Foundation	United Way
	Minnesota Power - An Allete Company	The Victory Fund
	North Star Foundation	The Women's Foundation of Minnesota

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenses		% of expense
Futures	\$132,153.	11%
Housing	\$494,291	40%
Youth Center	\$235,763	19%
Wellness	\$199,885	16%
Management/General	\$159,593	13%
Fundraising	\$10,389	1%
Total:	\$1,232,074	

Revenue		% of revenue
Contributions & Grants	\$566,692	39%
Government Grants	\$744,451	51%
Fundraising Events	\$116,681	8%
Program Fees	\$6,849	< 1%
Rental Income	\$24,000	2%
Miscellaneous	\$391	< 1%
Total:	\$1,459,064	

A NIGHT OF LIGHT

November 2014



Photos by: Amanda Mead

"Life House helped me take control. Now I am behind the wheel and have the drive to go further in my life."

- Life House Youth



"At Life House, there's someone to talk to for help. There's someone there with you."

- Life House Youth



"Without Life House, I would be homeless and hungry. They helped point me in the right direction. Life House is my second family."

- Life House Youth



2014 Christmas City of the North Parade



REBRAND & RENOVATE

LOGO BEFORE



LOGO AFTER



BUILDING BEFORE



BUILDING AFTER



KITCHEN BEFORE



KITCHEN AFTER



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LIFE HOUSE IS

A safety net.

Pragmatic about the unique needs of each youth.

Using a team approach. Providing comprehensive services.

Reconnecting homeless and street youth to their dreams.

“The staff at Life House gives you ideas, they open up the path. They start you off so you can finish it.”

- Life House Youth

YOUTH WE SERVE:

- 599 youth in 2014
- 8,814 meals served
- 56% are youth of color
- 44% are under 18 years
- 51% male / 49% female
- 15% identify as LGBTQ
- 52% had been homeless at least once in their lives
- 27% reported as being homeless upon program intake
- 30% have reported domestic violence
- 41% had experienced out-of-home placement including foster care

YOUTH REQUESTED:

- 54% help with basic needs including food, clothing, and hygiene/showers
- 40% help with housing, including access to emergency shelter
- 53% employment assistance
- 54% help with education

WHAT MAKES LIFE HOUSE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

“You guys care.”

“You are honest and straightforward with us.”

“It isn’t a community center, it’s so much more.”

“Life House turns attention towards young adults unlike most organizations.”

*“You have our backs when no one else does. S**t! You came to the hospital with me!”*

HERE TODAY

YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER: Refuge, relief, and resources for homeless and street youth. As the heart of Life House, it is usually the first point of contact for hundreds of homeless and street youth that we serve annually.

HOUSING PROGRAM: A safe place to call home. A path to housing stability for vulnerable homeless and street youth with extensive and ongoing services.

STREET OUTREACH: Finding and building relationships with youth on the streets. Connecting with homeless and street youth through street- and site-based outreach activities that are respectful of the complex identities of youth and responding to their immediate needs.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS: Peace of mind through resiliency and well-being. Providing daily support and on-going services to improve physical, mental, and spiritual wellness.immediate needs.

HERE TOMORROW

FUTURES PROGRAM:
An unconventional pathway for youth who want to reconnect to conventional systems.

Futures Education works with homeless and street youth in a flexible environment so they can earn a GED, a high school diploma, and/or go to college.

Futures Employment helps youth move toward financial independence and stability for the future.

SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM

A SECURE PLACE TO HEAL AND BUILD SELF WORTH.

Launched January 2014:

A continuum of care for underage male, female, and gender non-conforming victims of sex trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.