

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES, ONE KID AT A TIME

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Life House Supporter:

***An Open Door - A Hot Meal - A Good Home -
A Better Life Because of YOU!***

On behalf of our staff and youth, I'd like to share our sincere appreciation for all your support!

In 2011 Life House served over 650 kids seeking basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, etc.). As the only safe place for homeless kids in our region, this forces us to ask:

If not Life House, where else can these kids go for help?

The goal of Life House is to continue to make a difference in the lives of homeless kids who so desperately need our help and guidance. But we can't do it alone.

Throughout this report, we share the stories and successes of Life House kids featured in 2011. As you'll see, the results have been life changing.

With the help of contributions from supporters like you, we will continue to see improvements in each child's journey toward safe housing, school, work, and positive health goals.

Sincerely,
Kim Crawford, Executive Director



Ashley - featured January 2011

“We’re just kids who get forgotten. We’re supposed to be grown-ups but we don’t know how... We need help BEFORE we get older.”

Ashley came to Life House homeless, seeking shelter and a better way of life for herself and her infant son. Thanks to Life House programs, today Ashley has a high school diploma, a job, her own apartment and is providing the home she never had for her children.

Life House Mission:

To provide a safe harbor for enhancing the lives of youth at risk.

Who We Are:

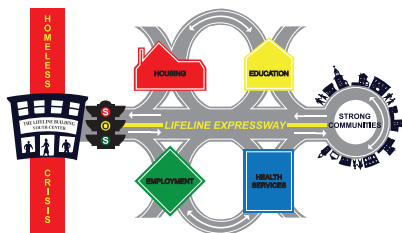
Incorporated in 1991, Life House goals are to help at risk, homeless youth become healthy, positive adults. Our emergency youth services are located in the LIFELINE Building, two blocks from the public transit center, downtown Duluth, Minnesota.

Today, Life House is the only drop-in center for homeless kids in Northeastern Minnesota.

Current Programs and Activities:

Life House serves at-risk, homeless youth by a variety of programs and activities including:

- Access to basic needs (food, shelter, clothing)
- Relationship building / leadership / mentoring
- Positive adult support for achieving goals in:
 - Safe housing
 - School / Jobs
 - Health & well-being



Together, these activities form our unique, holistic approach: the “LIFELINE Expressway”

The basic philosophy in our “LIFELINE Expressway” service delivery includes:

- *Trauma awareness:* Incorporation of an understanding of trauma within staff
- *Emphasis on safety:* Building physical and emotional safety for our kids
- *Strengths-based approach:* Focusing on youth strengths, not deficiencies
- *Positive Youth Development:* Empowering kids to make healthy choices and avoid risk

Life House believes the safe, trusting space created by our staff enables homeless youth to reach out, and begin the healing process. Equipped with the tools of self-knowledge and support, our kids CAN overcome barriers and become healthy, productive adults.

“I’d rather sleep on the streets than ask for help. That’s just where I was at the time.”

Matt was left to figure out life on his own at a young age, trying to find work and a place to stay while trying to still graduate from high school. Thanks to Life House, he now has stable housing and has been learning the life and job skills he needs to support himself.



Matt - featured February 2011

THE LIFELINE EXPRESSWAY: PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAK-DOWN

AGE

14-17:	32%
18-20:	68%

GENDER

Male:	47%
Female:	52%
Transgender:	1%

ETHNICITY

African American:	24%
Caucasian:	44%
Native American:	10%
Multi-Racial:	20%
Other:	2%

H
O
M
E
L
E
S
S



C
R
I
S
I
S

- OUTCOME: 78% who accessed affordable housing remained stable for at least 6 months
- ACTIVITY: 91 youth served through our Housing Program

- OUTCOME: 267 youth connected to Life House "LIFELINE Expressway" programs for help with positive life goals.
- ACTIVITIES: 654 youth served, 9,605 meals served, 513 clothing items offered AND 218 life skills classes taught on-site in our youth drop-in center.

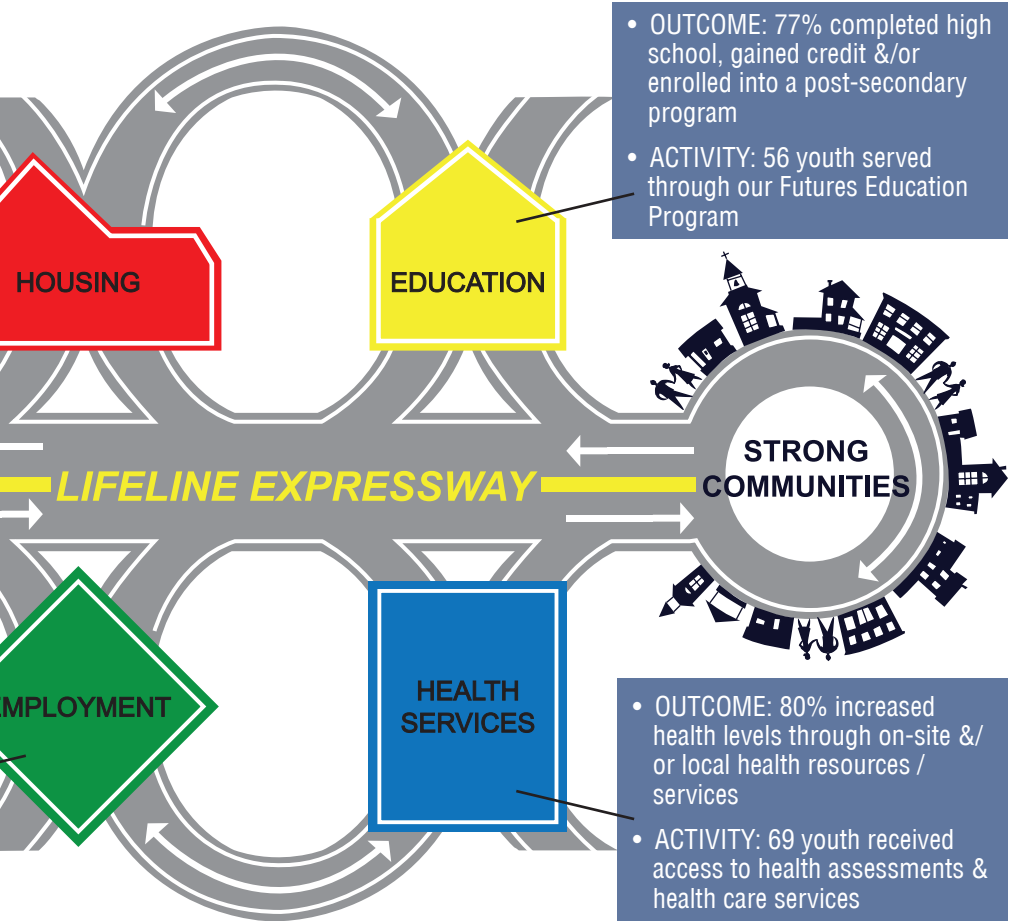
- OUTCOME: 68% increased &/or stabilized earned income after 6 months
- ACTIVITY: 53 youth served through our Futures Employment Program



Mary - featured March 2011

"Since I was 10 years old I've been taking care of my mother just as much as she's been taking care of me."

Mary spent much of her youth caring for her mother who suffers from mental health issues. In coming to Life House, Mary learned to take time for herself and has since found stable housing, is living independently and will be pursuing her education.



“All I ever wanted was for someone to care about me – to want me to be around. Life House is that place for me.”

After fleeing an abusive relationship, Catie found herself homeless with the cards stacked against her. Through Life House she has found the resources to get her on the right path to self-sufficiency and continue her college education.



Catie - featured April 2011

LIFE HOUSE CELEBRATES GRADUATION

Originally published through the Northland's News Center - Thursday, May 19, 2011

Being a good mom, that's twenty year old Breanna's number one priority. So getting an education and setting a good example for her children is important.

"I was homeless, so I had to voluntarily place (my kids) in the system so they would be safe while I was moving from place to place."

It was then when Breanna found Life House. In partnership with Duluth Public Schools, the Life House Education Program helped her study to reach her goal of finishing high school.

With a support network, a roof over her head, and a high school diploma in hand, Breanna says that Life House helped change her life around.

"I'm not that person that I was before," says Breanna. "There are better ways of doing stuff, and I learned that from Life House."

Helping Life House kids graduate high school supports our community by building the skills and confidence in our kids to get a job and enroll into college.

The Life House Annual Graduation Ceremony gives our kids and stakeholders a chance to come together, and be a part of an event that builds a stronger community.

Above all, it provides the opportunity for our supporters, our investors, to feel good about giving and to "Honor Our Kids."



Jimmy - featured May 2011

"Without Life House I would be homeless. They helped me put my life together. They were there for me. They cared."

Jimmy has battled to maintain sobriety since childhood, ultimately finding himself kicked out of his home as a teen. Through Life House, Jimmy has found safe housing, counseling to keep his sobriety as well as tutoring so he could finish high school.

PROGRAM UPDATES – HOUSING PROGRAM

Based on researched “best practices,” our Housing Program now provides:

- Enhanced services that build relationships between youth and the community
- Increased engagement in developing and mastering real life skills, including:
 - getting and keeping a job
 - improving academic skills
 - making healthy choices

“HORS D’OEUVRES THAT OPEN DOORS” - MAR. 1, 2011

A fantastic evening celebrating Life House at the New Scenic Café on the beautiful North Shore. The event provided a great opportunity for attendees to mix, mingle, and support our community’s at-risk and homeless youth.



“YOUTH IN THE SHADOWS” LIFE HOUSE PLAY – JULY 26, 2011

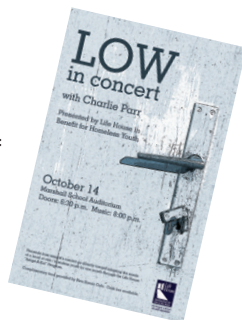
Inspired by the words of Life House youth, the “Youth in the Shadows” play event was a huge success at raising both funds and awareness for the needs of local homeless kids.



“LOW: IN CONCERT” – OCTOBER 14, 2011

Presented by Life House in Benefit for Homeless Youth

Low and supporting act, Charlie Parr, provided a fantastic night of music in support of Life House. All proceeds of this event went directly toward adopting the needs of a local at-risk, homeless youth through the Life House “Adopt-A-Kid” Program (for more info, please see page 9).



“I am now working on my goals and paying it forward by helping out Life House with whatever I can.”

Raven has battled finding safety in her life for as long as she can remember. She finally found a safe place to call her own through the Life House housing program. She now lives independently and is attending college.



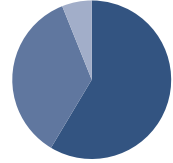
Raven - featured June 2011

Based on audited financial statements

SUPPORT & REVENUE

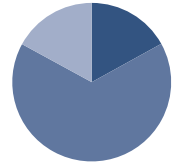
SUPPORT:

	2010	2011
■ Contributions & Grants	\$ 365,890	\$ 451,604
■ Government Grants	\$ 289,360	\$ 272,191
■ Special Events Revenue	\$ 22,874	\$ 46,930
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$ 678,124	\$ 770,725



REVENUE:

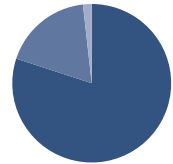
■ Program Fees	\$ 7,145	\$ 6,181
■ Gross Rental Income	\$ 22,500	\$ 24,000
■ Miscellaneous	\$ 2,510	\$ 6,213
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 32,155	\$ 36,394



TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$ 710,279	\$ 807,119
------------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------

EXPENSES

	2010	2011
■ Direct Program Expenses	\$ 701,629	\$ 675,043
■ Administration	\$ 144,034	\$ 153,619
■ Fundraising Expenses	\$ 23,041	\$ 15,036
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 868,704	\$ 843,698



In 2011, Life House was able to anticipate government cuts and minimized general reliance on government funding. Through fundraising and awareness building, Life House was able to raise over \$100,000 in new foundation grants and donor contributions.



Shanise - featured July 2011

“I looked in my kids’ faces.... They were tired of all the couches, all the fighting, all the upheaval.”

For years, Shanise was struggling to keep a safe place for herself and her twin boys. Today, they have their own apartment in thanks to Life House. Shanise has returned to school and meets with a Life House counselor to help build her resilience as a single mom.

HELP EMPOWER LOCAL YOUTH

The “Adopt-A-Kid” Program is designed to give our community an opportunity to support the programs and services provided by Life House.

For as little as \$29 a month, you can “adopt” some of the needs of a Life House youth. Your gift helps our kids with necessities like hot meals, personal hygiene, GED testing, or even bus fare to get to school.

- \$29 per month opens the door to a safe, warm place for 1 homeless kid
- \$50 per month provides 250 free hot meals for homeless kids in need
- \$100 per month gives the caring support to help 1 homeless kid exit the streets

ENROLLMENT IS EASY, WITH TWO CONVENIENT OPTIONS:

1. BY PHONE: Call 218-722-7431 x. 10 to enroll and set up payments via cash, check or credit card.

2. ONLINE: Visit www.lifehouseduluth.org/adoptakid.html or scan the code at right to enroll online.

You can open doors for a local youth like Rose.



“I hit rock bottom. I was homeless, unemployed, and bouncing from house to house.”

After losing her job, with little savings or support, Rose was homeless and unable to focus on her goals. With a safe place to live and support from Life House staff, Rose was able to find a job and finish school. Rose has been working to rebuild her strength and self-confidence.

Rose - featured August 2011

Life House wishes to thank all of our funders, donors, partners, and volunteers that help “Open Doors” for homeless youth.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Life House offers a variety of ways to donate and get involved to create real change in the lives of our community’s youth.

ADOPT-A-KID

For as little as \$29 a month, you can support the needs of a local homeless youth. Your donation provides access to a hot meal, safe housing, school, job training and essential health services. For more information, see page 9.

CORPORATE AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Throughout the year, Life House hosts a variety of special events that provide unique PR opportunities for companies and organizations, while helping kids in crisis. For info on our signature events or to host your own, please call **218-722-7431 x. 10**.

DONATIONS

General donations are always greatly appreciated. Life House makes it easy to donate with a variety of convenient payment options including:

- 1. ONLINE GIVING:** Visit www.lifehouseduluth.org/donate.html
- 2. BY PHONE:** Please call 218-722-7431 x. 10.
- 3. CASH OR CHECK:** Checks can be made payable to Life House. Donations may be mailed or delivered to 102 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Life House is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your generous gift is tax deductible.



Andrew - featured September 2011

“Life House helped me get my own apartment, and even helped me get a job to pay my bills.”

Just out of high school – without a home or job to support himself – Andrew was afraid he would soon be on the streets. After finding Life House, he was able to work with staff to secure his own apartment, learn the job skills he needed to find work and find funding for college.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Chair

Larry Nord
Orman Nord & Hurd –
Attorneys at Law

Co-Chair

Tina Welsh
Retired

Secretary

David Bard
First United Methodist
Church

Treasurer

Jim Paulson
Small Business Owner

David Barnes
Republic Bank

Justin Black
Cartier Agency

Shane Jopke
U.S. Bank

Lindsay Lahti
College of St. Scholastica

Nick Lepak
City of Duluth Police Department

Jean Seinola
College of St. Scholastica

Leanne Ventrella
Minnesota 6th Judicial District

LIFE HOUSE STAFF

Executive Director

Kim Crawford

Development Director

Jeff Woolverton

Finance Director

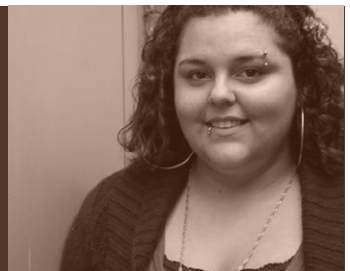
Tim Peterson

Life House Support Team

Jennifer Backus
Samantha Cotton
Melida Keister
Chris LeBlanc
Erich Lutz
Terry Moody
Kyle Naalsund
McKenzie Pangerl
Ahna Pelto
Dawn Plath
Life House Interns
Life House Volunteers

“Life House helped me find my independence. There is no way I could have done it without their support.”

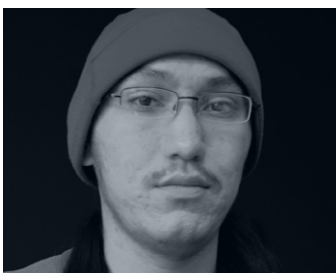
For Sarah, drugs, alcohol and violence became replacements for family, spending much of her teen years on the streets. Thanks to Life House programs in housing, employment, and mental health, she now has a home, job and has been accepted into college.



Sarah - featured October 2011



Life House
102 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-7431
www.lifehouseduluth.org



Michial - featured November 2011

“Life House services – the food, housing, employment, education – meeting with my case manager has helped me work toward my goals.”

Michial has lived through dangers of abandonment, drugs, & alcohol. At Life House, Michial gets a healthy meal each day and the support he needs to earn his GED, fight his addictions and gain job skills. He now has a job and a sense of family thanks to Life House.

“A job, school, a place to stay-- it’s a lot if you’re young, trying to stay on the right path. Life House helps keep it together.

Hard times separated Ginseng from her family. Life House filled that role providing the support she needed to stay on track. Ginseng is focused on her future, learning the skills for a successful adulthood. She has a job, an apartment and is attending college.



Ginseng - featured December 2011

AN OPEN DOOR

A HOT MEAL

A GOOD HOME

A BETTER LIFE BECAUSE OF YOU!