



Minnesota Host Home Network



Maximum Thanks!

A big shout-out to the generous donors who supported us on Give to the Max Day!

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Barb Thomas
Aaron Zimmerman

Through their donations, we'll be able to receive the full \$1,000 matching grant from Minnesota Host Home Network board chair Craig Cox and his wife, Sharon Parker. We so appreciate everyone's generosity!

Our Impressive Board

We're so privileged to have a top-notch advisory board. We want to give a big shout-out to **Andrea Jenkins**, the newly elected Minneapolis City Council Member for Ward 8 — and the first elected

Director's Report Now More Than Ever . . .

Homelessness is becoming more visible — it seems as if people with cardboard signs keep showing up at intersections where I haven't seen them before. And the invisible homeless population is also growing. That's what a recent study released by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago unmasked — **a stunning 4.2 million young people in America will grapple on their own with homelessness over a year's time**. That's a big number — even I felt shocked.

And then there's whatever you want to call it — the tax bill, tax overhaul or tax heist — which will undoubtedly only further increase the numbers of youth facing homelessness over the next years and decades.

Already we are unable to keep up. In our state, we have emergency, transitional living, and supportive housing **beds for only about 17 percent of Minnesota's 6,000 young people who are facing homelessness unaccompanied** on any given night.

Many of the "hidden" homeless youth are couch-hopping — staying here and there with different people they know. Such arrangements can be precarious, but they can also point to a caring adult who would like to support the youth, but may need additional help. That's where I think we need to focus more effort.

Please take a moment to read my recent op-ed published in the *StarTribune* that gives my take on this new reality: ['Hidden' network of caring adults can be key to stopping homelessness](#)

transgender woman of color in the country!!

Go Andrea!

Congrats also goes to **Josephine Pufpaff**, who has stepped into the newly created role of director of system improvement for youth homelessness at MANY, the national network working to engage stakeholders across sectors to improve outcomes for vulnerable youth.

And we're so pleased to welcome onto the board our stellar volunteer **Aaron Zimmerman**, who is now director of development and communications for the Domestic Abuse Project.

Consider a Year-End Donation

The Minnesota Host Home Network runs a lean operation. We value—and spend wisely—every dollar we receive. If you'd like to support transformational change for youth facing homelessness, we'd greatly appreciate your tax-deductible gift.

We're a fiscally sponsored project of Propel Nonprofits. Kindly make checks payable to "Propel Nonprofits" with "Minnesota Host Home Network" in the memo line and mail to:

Propel Nonprofits
One Main Street SE #600
Minneapolis MN 55414

[Or donate easily online through GiveMN.](#)

We've Got a Vision!



What is the Minnesota Host Home Network really trying to accomplish? The board was able to spend time grappling with that question, thanks to funding from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. The vision of the Network has

changed from our initial focus on host home programs.

We now see that advocating for ongoing caring relationships for youth facing homelessness is our core mission. And we've come to understand that, while "stranger-matches" with caring adults can be powerful, they don't always click. To help the most youth, focusing on strengthening their connections with the caring adults who are already in their lives has the best chance of success. And while service providers play a vital role, that role is, by definition, time-limited. Young people need caring adults who can make a lasting commitment to be in their lives. Prioritizing support for these relationships is transformational.

So ta-da! We present our new vision and mission statements:

Our Vision

Communities embrace youth facing homelessness, prioritizing their deep human need for connection and belonging.

Our Mission

We catalyze system change for youth facing homelessness by championing lasting relationships with the caring adults already in their lives who are not their service providers. We develop strategies to fortify these life-giving connections and advocate for investing in their transformative power.

A big thanks to Jennifer Kramm, strategic services consultant from our fiscal sponsor, Propel Nonprofits, who boldly led our board through our spirited discussion sessions.

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