



Minnesota Host Home Network



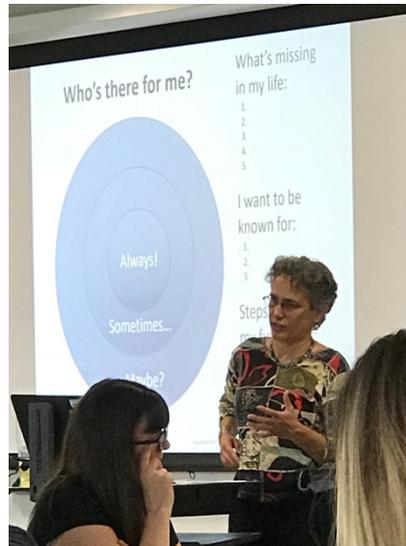
Start Giving to the Max!

No need to wait until November 15, the official Give to the Max day, to make a donation that could qualify the Minnesota Host Home Network for special prizes! [Click here](#) to donate through GiveMN.

Because GiveMN charges a 6.9% processing fee, some folks prefer to give online to Minnesota Host Home Network through our fiscal sponsor, Propel Nonprofits, which charges a 2.2% fee + 30¢ per transaction. [Click here](#) if you would like to donate online through Propel.

Or do it the old-fashioned way: Write a check payable to "Propel Nonprofits" with "MN Host Home Network" in the memo line and mail to:

Propel Nonprofits
One Main Street SE
Suite 600
Minneapolis MN 55414



Director's Report Who Can I Count On?

... is the big question confronting a youth facing homelessness. So I made it the title and focus of my recent workshop that more than 50 staff from Hennepin County and contracting social service agencies attended.

I asked attendees to share where they would have gone if, for some reason, they'd come home one day from high school to find home was gone and they couldn't get in touch with their parents or guardian.

The answers they gave — "I would have gone to my best friend's house" or to my aunt's or other extended relative, or to my neighbor's or my church — are exactly the places and people that youth facing homelessness first call on.

And yet, social services do not typically look at how to bolster these "natural supports." A shift in mindset and practices would need to occur, starting by:

- **ASSUMING** the youth has **natural supports** — adults already in their life who care about them,
- **ASKING** the youth to identify those people,
- **INVITING** those people to be part of the youth's circle of support, and
- **SUPPORTING** that relationship through counseling, referrals to community resources, and financial stipends.

Attendees recognized that this kind of realignment is not minor. In brainstorming "how to empower staff to strengthen natural supports," they recognized the cultural shift necessary to prioritize these relationships, including the need for staff to share power with youth and their natural supports, and for

A Pop-Up Mini Benefit Concert

7 p.m., Sunday, December 2

[Butter Bakery Café](#)

37th St. and Nicollet Ave. in Minneapolis

Come hear Minnesota Orchestra musicians play Mendelssohn's beautiful String Quartet in E Minor, opus 44 #2.

Butter, a neighborhood cafe that serves as a job-training site for youth at risk of homelessness, will be opening Sunday evening expressly for this special event. Enjoy some of their yummy bakery treats!

Your \$20 suggested donation will benefit the [Minnesota Host Home Network](#).

Thank You!

We're pleased to announce we've received our third \$10,000 grant from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. We're so grateful for their ongoing support.

leadership to reassess performance outcomes.

I'm heartened: We're beginning. A paradigm shift does not happen of its own accord. The first step is imagining the change we long to see.

I'm particularly grateful to our partners in this work: the Sauer Family Foundation for underwriting this workshop and Khalid (Kay) Adam, senior planning analyst at Hennepin County's Center for Innovation and Excellence, for the enthusiastic invitation.

Listening to Youth

The Minnesota Host Home Network has been conducting interviews with youth and young adults who are staying with adults they already know in what we're calling "informal host homes." What we heard over and over is that the arrangement is about much more than the bed. Here's what "Chika," a straight 17-year-old of Pacific Islander heritage, said about her best friend's aunt:

She's like a second mother to me, the mother that I wish my mom would have been. . . . She treats me like I'm one of her daughters. And when she introduces me to people, she'll introduce me as her niece, like I'm part of the family and stuff. She makes it very comfortable so I'm not insecure.

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.

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