



Seeking Passionate Board Members!

When we ask young people dealing with housing instability, “What do you most need?” they tell us “Love.” Yes! Even young people living in their cars during the Minnesota winter. Youth also tell us that they do have people in their lives who care about them—their best friend’s mom, a neighbor, the cousin who lets them sleep on the basement couch.... But these caring connections are typically overlooked, especially if they are in BIPOC communities.

Our Vision

We see all youth facing homelessness as already loved, especially youth from underestimated and under-resourced communities.

Our Mission

CloseKnit catalyzes system change, building a holistic response that overcomes racism to honor and invest in existing "chosen family" arrangements that prevent youth homelessness.

Our approach is gaining traction. We’ve worked closely with youth drop-in centers to develop successful pilot sites; our peer-reviewed research has garnered national attention; and Minnesota Housing has awarded us funding to address the legal and policy issues that can impede support for chosen family hosting arrangements, especially for renter households.

We’re looking for the board members who can help us build on our momentum. We invite passionate people seeking to ignite system change, build new programs, and raise money to apply. We especially value the perspective of people who are BIPOC and/or have lived experience—either as a youth facing homelessness or as an adult hosting a young person. CloseKnit compensates board members who have lived experience of youth homelessness for their board service.

We expect every board member to:

- Take our work to heart and do their part to expand our reach, scope and impact;
- Leverage their connections to advance our mission and help secure financial resources;
- Give their own personally meaningful financial donation;
- Attend bimonthly board meetings, follow our bylaws, and adhere to conflict-of-interest standards.



Board Member Application

We are thrilled that you are interested in serving on CloseKnit's board!
To submit your name for consideration, we invite you to answer the following:

1. What is your name, email, phone, and address? What pronouns do you use?
2. Why are you interested in serving on CloseKnit's board?
3. What skills or experience would you bring to CloseKnit that could help us advance our vision and mission?
4. CloseKnit aims to build a board rich in diverse experiences and perspectives, with an ongoing commitment to addressing structural racism. Because 3/4ths of youth facing homelessness in Minnesota are BIPOC, CloseKnit is building a majority BIPOC board. We recognize that many other groups are also over-represented among young people facing homelessness, including youth who have disabilities, youth who have been in foster care, youth who have an incarcerated parent, and youth who are queer and/or gender nonconforming. We value those perspectives, as well as the perspective of people living in Greater Minnesota. To help us get to know you, as well as to assist us in reporting to funders who often require that grantees share the demographic make-up of their board, we invite you to answer the following:
 - What is your race/ethnic identity?
 - Age?
 - Sexual orientation? Gender identity?
 - Do you have any disabilities?
 - Where were you born?
 - Do you share another characteristic common to young people who are over-represented among youth facing homelessness, or are you from a rural area? If so, please describe.
5. CloseKnit highly values the perspective of people who have lived experience of youth homelessness, as well as people who have informally hosted youth facing homelessness. Please let us know if that is part of your story.

Some board members have chosen to be public about this experience; however, CloseKnit respects that others may prefer to keep this information confidential. CloseKnit never shares that a particular board member has lived experience unless the board member has given us permission to do so. We do, however, share the *percentage* of board members who have lived experience.

Thank you for your interest in furthering CloseKnit's vital work!

Please email your responses to CloseKnit board member Priya Sury at priya.sury@gmail.com.