



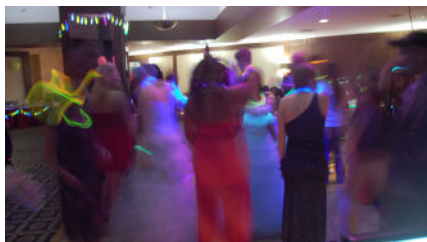
2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

LIFE HOUSE  
*Duluth*

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2016 marks Life House's 25th Anniversary, and what an incredible year it was! Just a few highlights include opening a new housing program, the West End Apartments, for young adults fleeing domestic violence; renovating our Basic Needs Supply room so more youth are able to access necessities like food, clothing, and toiletries; and launching a new on-site paid job training program, which the youth employees named the Legitimate Hustle Program.



Yet the absolute highlight of the year for me was Life House's Neon Lights Prom.

Here is the breakdown of the numbers:

- 63 youth
- 75 balloons
- 1000+ glow sticks
- 2400 feet of tulle

Looking out over the dance floor at this group of kids who are struggling with some major challenges – homelessness, abuse, mental illness, poverty – having a blast just being kids, I was overcome with emotion. So proud of the Life House staff team and their tireless devotion to our youth. So impressed with these young people who defy the odds every day.

And just when I thought “It doesn't get any better than this,” a note arrived, written by one attendee as she waited for a ride home. *“Life House: Thanks for Prom, dealing with the youth attitudes, making sure each individual is okay. Giving us your time, being there for our rough times, but mostly believing in us. In some cases, Life House staff becomes our mentors, family, and best friends – even being the only people some youth trust. If we didn't have Life House, the youth would keep going downhill in Duluth. Keep being awesome!”*

And that's what keeps each one of us coming to work each day.

Life House has been here for 25 years, and we'll be here for as long as it takes to reconnect every homeless and street youth in Duluth to their dreams.

In Duluth, we are making great progress. But we have to get more kids off the streets, more quickly. With your support, Life House has been here for 25 years, and will be here as long as it takes, until no youth is left homeless, alone, uncared for, or fending for themselves on the streets.

Thank you,

*Maude Dompfeld*

Executive Director

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# RECONNECTING YOUTH TO DREAMS

Dear Life House Youth,

Some of you may not know me, but I'm sure most of you do. I've gotten the chance to get to know many of you, and it's been an amazing privilege. For those of you who don't know me, my name is B\*. I'm 19 almost 20 years old. I was and always will be a Life House youth. I was a part of the Life House program for a year and a half. And when I first began to attend groups and meetings my mind set was all messed up. I was a major drug addict and blamed everyone around me for my addiction problems.

Life House is the main reason I'm still alive today. I know sometimes it may seem like they have no idea what they're talking about. But I can promise you if you listen to their advice you will find out that their not giving you advice so you will fail. Their giving you the advice you need in order to succeed.

One lesson they've taught me is that with every obstacle you overcome, there's always another eight behind that one; don't let that scare you because the one you just overcame, prepares you for the next.

I met many people at Life House that I've come to know, love, and support. And it seems I keep meeting more youth and adults who ultimately have stolen my heart. For those of you who are going through some tough stuff, just know you are never alone. Life House will always have your back. There's always someone out there who knows exactly what you're going through. Because they've been through it too. If you ever feel down and need some cheering up, write me. I'll do my best to make you smile.

Well, until next time. I'm proud of all of you.

Truly your friend,  
B\*

***Transcript of a letter from one Life House youth to others in March 2016***

# 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

## EXPENSE

Futures	\$149,905	9%
Housing	\$775,419	49%
Youth Center	\$230,346	14%
Wellness	\$203,486	13%
Management/General	\$225,269	14%
Fundraising	\$12,596	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,597,021</b>	

## REVENUE

Contributions	\$235,269	14%
Foundation Grants	\$480,260	28%
Government Grants	\$813,582	48%
Fundraising Events	\$47,059	3%
Program Fees	\$102,073	6%
Rental Income	\$26,100	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,704,343</b>	

## FUNDING PARTNERS

- Anonymous
- Bernick Family Foundation
- Blue Plus Fund
- Cathedral Community Cares
- City of Duluth
- Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
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- YouthPrise

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# 2016 IN REVIEW

Our 25th anniversary celebration brought some special events to Life House! In 2016, we became more active in the community taking on more presentations, speaking engagements, and tours than ever.

The Six-Part Lecture Series engaged the community to dismantle myths about homeless youth with presentations including, “Hey Kid, Why Don’t You Just Get a Job?” and “That Doesn’t Happen Here, Right?”

We asked the community to clean out their couches and bring their change to Life House for the “Drive Up the Change” event in September. We moved our couch out onto 1st St and collected over \$3300 including \$2000 in coin and cash.

Continuing the tradition, we hosted *A Night to Shine*, our graduation celebration in May. 25 youth for 25 years were recognized at the event. The Loft Shelter Program, opening in Summer 2017, was introduced to the community with great support.



# BY THE NUMBERS

729 Youth Reached Through all Programs  
12,236 Meals Served in the Youth Center  
207 Youth Attended 2,068 Youth Center Groups, Classes & Activities  
46 Youth Placed in the Housing Program  
15 Youth Stayed at Sol House  
96 Youth Received Mental Health and Wellness Support  
4 Completed GED & 3 Graduated High School  
32 Secured Jobs with Individualized Case Management  
13 Secured Employment Through the Duluth@Work Program

## BASIC NEEDS ROOM RENOVATION



BEFORE

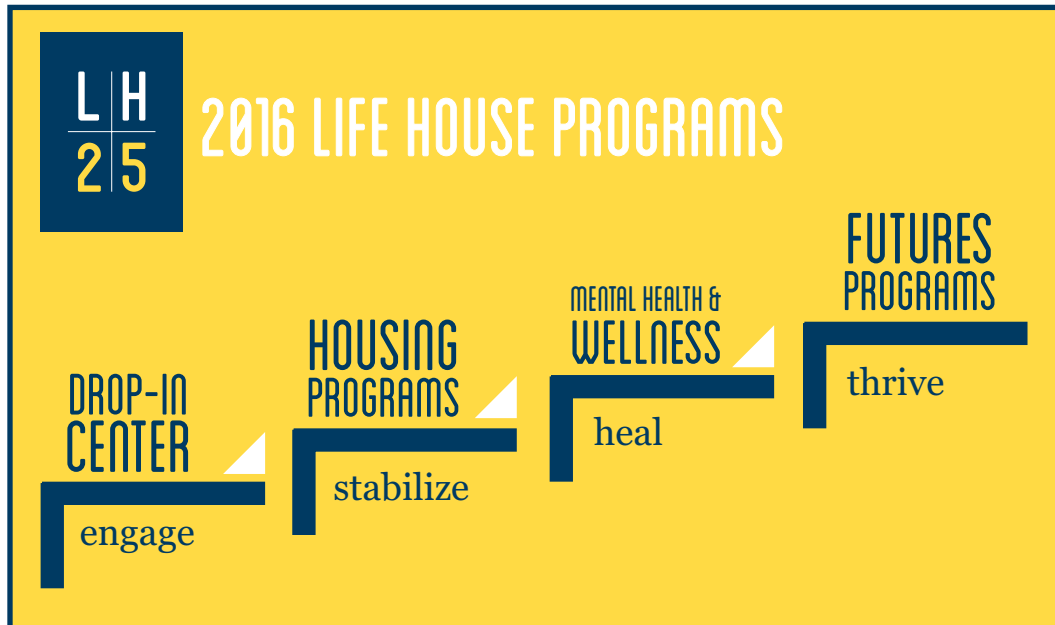


AFTER



HERE FOR 25 YEARS. HERE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

From a humble beginning in 1991, Life House has adapted and grown to its current state, serving over 700 youth annually.



Because of the support of the community, we are here today with the vision that no youth will be left homeless, alone, uncared for, or fending for themselves on the streets. We look forward to the future and how we can continue to reconnect homeless and street youth to their dreams.

**25** | **LIFE HOUSE**  
*Here for 25 years. Here for as long as it takes.*