

StreetWise

A PUBLICATION OF LARKIN STREET YOUTH SERVICES

LARKIN
STREET

YOUTH SERVICES



FALL-WINTER 2018

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

134 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

YOUTH SERVICES

LARKIN
STREET

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The last few months have been a whirlwind of special guests and events that have advanced the movement to end youth homelessness in significant ways. Between the passage of legislation like State Bill 918 to clearly designate a state-level lead for youth homelessness and partnerships with Salesforce and the City of San Francisco, the hard work over the years to shine a light on young people experiencing homelessness is paying off!

“It is possible to create a world in which youth homelessness does not exist.”

It is possible to create a world in which youth homelessness does not exist. We're closing out a strategic plan that resulted in over 80% of young people who completed our housing programs exiting homelessness.

As we launch the process of building a new strategic plan, we are informed by more data than ever – including results from an external evaluation and a relationship with North Highland, the worldwide consulting company. Their engagement with us will include project management coaching, change management, and strategic service expansions.

Finally, we are both humbled and thrilled to be the anchor institution for the City of San Francisco's new Rising Up campaign. This public-private partnership (read more on the next page) will need your ongoing support as well in order to provide the comprehensive services young people need to move beyond the street for good.

Your continued commitment to the movement to end youth homelessness can help create the circumstances in which no young person will have to sleep on the street again.

Thank you for pushing forward with us.

Sincerely,



Sherilyn Adams
Executive Director
Larkin Street Youth Services



At the podium at the Rising Up campaign launch is Larkin Street client, Yesi Alemeyehe flanked by, from left Larkin Street alumnus Zak Franet, Larkin Street Executive Director Sherilyn Adams, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing Director Jeff Kositsky, Mayor London Breed, and Tipping Point Community CEO and Founder Daniel Lurie.

CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO COMMITS TO CUTTING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN HALF BY 2022

For the first time, San Francisco is truly prioritizing the needs of young people experiencing homelessness through Rising Up, a new public-private partnership which aims to cut youth homelessness in half by 2022. This initiative is a result of years of advocacy by young people and staff from Larkin Street

working in partnership with City officials. Larkin Street was selected as the anchor institution for the Rising Up campaign, leading a network of agencies providing services for youth.

Through Rising Up, the City is taking a huge stand and investing significantly in proven, sustainable strategies including rental subsidies, jobs, and case management, which address both young people's immediate and longer-term needs.

Rising Up is also an investment in preventing chronic homelessness. We know that half of homeless people in San Francisco first experienced homelessness before the age of 25. Investing in youth is an essential step towards ending homelessness for all.

We are beyond excited that the City has shown they truly see young people and are demonstrating that with an initial investment of \$6 million. The Tipping Point Community has committed an additional \$3 million and the City will lead efforts to bring in an additional \$21 million in philanthropic support as well as jobs and apartments from the private sector.

Our thanks to Mayor London Breed for her leadership, Jeff Kositsky and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and the many partners and funders involved including the Tipping Point Community. We invite you to join us in this effort to half youth homelessness by continuing to support Larkin Street Youth Services.

While funding from Rising Up will provide housing and jobs for 500 young people over the next three years, those youth also need the behavioral health, education, and leadership opportunities that Larkin Street provides.

Learn more about you can get involved in the fight to end youth homelessness at larkinstreetyouth.org/contribute

Rising Up Fast Facts



There are **1,300** young people on the streets in SF on any given night

Rising Up will provide housing and jobs to **500** young people who are experiencing homelessness and cut youth homelessness in half by 2022.



Half of homeless people in San Francisco first experienced homelessness before the age of **25**.



More than 400 business people attended the 13th annual CFO of the Year Awards at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco on June 7, 2018. We recognized the Winners and Finalists across seven categories including 2018 Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Winner Patricia E. (Pat) Yarrington, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Chevron Corporation. Pat delivered a witty and moving acceptance speech, as did the many Winners. Youth speaker Tyler Cook, a current Larkin Street client and college student, shared an emotional story about his past and his goals for the future, underscoring the importance of the funds raised at this event.



Huge thanks to our title sponsors, Deloitte and Marsh & McLennan Agency and co-presenters, the San Francisco Business Times, as well as our guests for helping us raise over \$500,000 to help young people transcend homelessness.

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Annual Education Graduation

JULY 13, 2018

At this year's Annual Education Graduation, themed "Growth and Empowerment," we celebrated graduates including high school, GED, transfers to four-year colleges and bachelor's degrees from schools including San Francisco State. We're grateful to all of our presenters, staff and volunteers for making this day so memorable!



Recording Artist G-Eazy Visits Larkin Street

JULY 27, 2018

Bay Area-native and international recording artist G-Eazy visited Larkin Street's Engagement and Community Center, handing out free Puma apparel, taking selfies with every young person, and making a \$50,000 donation towards our work to end youth homelessness! It was an unforgettable day for our young people as they got to meet one of their idols, and we so appreciate G-Eazy, his team, and the Tipping Point Community for making the introduction!



Performing Arts Night 2018

AUGUST 1, 2018

Young people from Larkin Street's services dazzled a packed house with talents ranging from dance and music to theater and poetry. Every performance was a testament of resiliency, courage, creativity, embodying this year's theme, "Dreaming in the Streets." This wouldn't be possible without our Arts Program, community partners, staff, volunteers, Kelly Cullen Community and Arts Program sponsor, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.



SALESFORCE.ORG MAKES \$500,000 COMMITMENT TO LARKIN STREET

Salesforce.org, the philanthropic arm of the Salesforce platform, announced a \$500,000 grant to Larkin Street Youth Services at their annual Dreamforce event in downtown San Francisco in September. We're grateful for this new partnership with Salesforce, which also includes a pledge to volunteer time and skills to Larkin Street.

Salesforce's commitment to ending homelessness was on display for the 170,000 Dreamforce attendees, with multiple opportunities to learn more about the issue, including highlighting success stories from Larkin Street in the "Dreamforest" throughout the week. In addition, our staff was invited to participate in several talks and panels at Dreamforce, sharing more information about our service model as well as how technology like the Salesforce platform supports our work.

This leadership is an example for our community, further propelling the movement to end youth homelessness.



Grantees including our ED Sherilyn Adams, far left, flank Salesforce Chairman and Co-CEO Marc Benioff as he announces grants towards ending homelessness at Dreamforce '18.



Larkin Street forms partnership with SF Young Adult Court to support alternatives to incarceration

Our partnership with the San Francisco Young Adult Court (YAC), which began this summer, will help even more young people transcend homelessness in the years ahead. Founded on studies suggesting that young adults' brains are not fully developed (and therefore they may not understand the impact committing a crime will have on themselves or others), the City of San Francisco launched the Young Adult Court in 2015 for young defendants facing non-violent felonies.

Larkin Street works with the Young Adult Court to provide jobs and supportive housing for young people in the YAC system as well as intensive case management and wrap-around services through our broader continuum of care. We plan to expand the number of young people we serve through this program in the months ahead.

These types of interventions are integral to stopping cycles of incarceration and recidivism – 84% of young adults released from prison will be rearrested within five years. Few with felony convictions will be able to find jobs. When alternatives such as the Young Adult Court are available for those facing non-violent felonies, outcomes improve significantly.



You Shop, Amazon Delivers! Now you don't have to leave home to make our young people's holidays happy. Shop our wish list on Amazon and your gift will be sent straight to our door! Learn more: larkinstreetyouth.org/wishlist

Help our young people have a happy holiday!

LARKIN STREET'S HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

Experiencing homelessness presents many unforeseen challenges including the inability to choose where to sleep, when to wake, and what to eat or wear. During this holiday season, please give the gift of choice back to our young people by donating an item from this list:

GIFT CARDS

Ross
Safeway
Target
Walgreens
VISA

GIFTS (assortment of adult sizes)

Socks (new)
T-shirts (new)
Underwear (new)
Bras (new)
Backpack
Sleeping bag



Please bring or ship new, unwrapped gifts by Fri, Dec 7

Larkin Street Youth Services
Attn: Development
134 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Calif., 94102
Donations are accepted from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

For questions or to make special gift drop off arrangements, please contact: volunteer@larkinstreetyouth.org



134 Golden Gate Ave
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(415) 673-0911

larkinstreetyouth.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS



FRIENDS OF LARKIN STREET HOLIDAY ICE SKATING PARTY

6:30-9:30 p.m. | Thurs., Dec. 5

Justin Herman Plaza, Market St. and Steuart St.

Celebrate the holidays with a night of ice skating, holiday games, drinks, and food while raising funds for young people experiencing homelessness!



PAVING THE WAY GALA

6-10 p.m. | Fri., March 22

Four Seasons Hotel, 757 Market St.

Join us for an incredible evening of fundraising and inspiration. Since its inception, the Paving the Way gala has raised over \$9 million to end youth homelessness. Tickets go on sale in December!



Learn more and get tickets at
larkinstreetyouth.org/events