Celebrating 35 Years
OF EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

2018-2019
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
Dear Friends,

We’re thrilled to invite you to join us in celebrating 35 years of empowering young people to reach their potential. Since Larkin Street opened its doors in 1984, we’ve helped more than 75,000 young people move past homelessness, and we’re not stopping now.

The need continues to be real and immediate. This year’s San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count Report shows more than 1,100 young people on the streets or in shelters on any given night. Youth of color and LGBTQ youth are impacted by homelessness at higher rates due to institutional racism, homophobia, and failures of other systems. The Count data also shows a double-digit increase in instances of abuse, as well as greater challenges in obtaining and maintaining living wage jobs, and finally, ongoing housing unaffordability.

In our new strategic plan, launched this year, we committed to an ambitious goal: reducing youth homelessness by 50% by 2023.

35 years have taught us that our wrap-around model of providing housing, healthcare, education, and employment services is key to helping young people get off the street for good. Our new strategic plan affirms that solving homelessness for all begins with solving it for youth of color and LGBTQ youth. We are amplifying youth voice and leadership, both internally and externally, while focusing on relationship building and using data to drive continuous learning and improvement.

At the core of our work is a stellar team that guides each young person individually through these programs. Appropriately, staff sustainability is among our key strategic priorities, as well as expanding and optimizing our employment, mental health, and outreach services for youth. None of this can happen in a vacuum, and our relationships with our partners across government, business, and other service providers will continue to be key in reaching our goal.

As we look back on the past 35 years, we’re also looking ahead to a future where youth homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. It’s common to be skeptical, especially given the increases in chronic homelessness throughout the state. But we know it’s crucial to have hope. The 10% decrease in youth homelessness in San Francisco since 2017 gives us hope, as do the young people we serve.

Our work isn’t just about moving people out of homelessness, it’s about helping them move from surviving to thriving and embracing life. It’s about wanting the same success for Larkin Street youth that we want for every young person – jobs, an education, and a place to call their own. When we think big, big things can happen.

Thanks to all of you for joining us in the belief that we can end youth homelessness. Your support is integral to making this future a reality.

Sincerely,

Sherilyn Adams
Executive Director

Susan K. Alexander
Chair
On any given night in San Francisco, there are more than 1,100 young people experiencing homelessness in the course of a year.

California is home to the highest number of young people experiencing homelessness in the country.

This year we served more than 2,200 young people! Let us tell you a bit about them.

The majority of them are transition aged youth (TAY) between the ages of 18 and 24.

Many identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning (LGBTQ).

Nearly half of these young people are from San Francisco or the Bay Area.

Youth of color are over-represented among young people experiencing homelessness.

78% of young people leaving Larkin Street report they can manage their mental health.

73% of young people are employed or enrolled in post-secondary education when they leave Larkin Street.

Three out of four young people exit to stable housing when they leave Larkin Street.
Ingraa is an activist, student, and filmmaker dedicated to sharing body positivity with the world and helping others feel comfortable in their skin. Her family life was, as Ingraa describes it, “dysfunctional.” So when she turned 18, she left in hopes of creating a better future for herself. She took advantage of a few workforce programs to learn skills and access housing. But says she knew she needed more in-depth help to heal the trauma she had experienced, and those programs didn’t provide that level of care. Ingraa was referred to Larkin Street and got inspired by the support and stability Larkin Street’s staff offered. She settled into her new home and began exploring attending college again through our Larkin Street Academy programs. Ingraa also worked on her physical and mental health with our free clinic and counseling services.

Larkin Street gave me permission to pursue any and everything I see myself becoming. I now realize I can be whoever I want to be.”

Our next-generation group of supporters, Friends of Larkin Street, hosted their ninth annual ice skating party, raising over $50,000 for the work to end youth homelessness.

Young people dazzled the crowd at our Art Program’s annual Performing Arts Night, showcasing talents like improv, music, theater and poetry.

My favorite memory is Performance night! The folks on stage always blow me away with their talent and bravery.”

@YouAreMagick via Twitter

Thanks to our guests at our annual Paving the Way gala in March, including Mayor London Breed, we raised more than $1 million to support young people experiencing homelessness!
Michael’s dream is to be a social worker for at-risk youth in foster care, helping them reach their goals. He was once one of those at-risk youth, with a family background that led to him being placed in a group home at age 12. Lacking a stable foundation, when the group home became unsafe, Michael ran away. He lived on the streets until health issues forced him to go to a doctor, who told him about Larkin Street and our Assisted Care After Care program. ACAC offers 24-hour, onsite medical care for HIV-positive youth, in addition to our housing, mental health, education and employment programs. With housing and the support of his case manager, Michael had the foundation he needed to start a GED program, get a therapist, and start working. He now lives in an apartment in the city and works full time and is pursuing his dream to get the credentials to become a social worker.

“The fact that I found Larkin Street was a miracle. They helped me get my feet on the ground.”

Larkin Street goes beyond the work that we do in these four walls. We also get involved in public policy, we have a Youth Advisory Board, we work with the Mayor’s office. I feel good doing my individual work, but also know that these are the people who are fighting against inequities across the board in San Francisco and California.”

As Director of Behavioral Health, Shellena Eskridge aims both to expand our mental health services and destigmatize conversations around mental health.

Growing up in San Francisco, Shellena saw a lot of injustice, mental health issues, and homelessness in her neighborhood. At a young age, Shellena saw the impact mental illness and substance use can have on communities, especially among people of color and low-income families.

Inspired by her mother’s background working for non-profits, Shellena grew up volunteering for different organizations in the Tenderloin, which is how she learned about Larkin Street. After obtaining a master’s degree in social work, she came to work here because our organizational goals aligned with her personal mission — to help young people of color succeed, regardless of any barriers they face.
More than 500 business professionals attended the 2019 Bay Area CFO of the Year Awards in June, raising over $500,000 for Larkin Street while honoring the Winners and Finalists.

In May, the “Crawfathers” hosted their 4th Annual SF Crawfest, raising more than $70,000 with live music and a delicious crawfish boil.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

“I remember my first experience with Larkin Street in 1986, seeing the passion and ability of the team. That began a 30-plus year “love” of Larkin Street and its work.”

- Terry Kramer, former Board Chair

RUDY

“I will never forget the day I got my acceptance letter from San Francisco State. I was so happy.”

Rudy came to the Bay Area at 16, fleeing gang violence in his native El Salvador. He was promised a safe place to live with family, but the situation quickly became so toxic that he would rather leave. He found employment at a local auto body shop, where the owner let him live in a small office. However the new arrangement was less than perfect – without a bed or a kitchen, Rudy couldn’t focus on his work or his studies. Eventually, Rudy shared what was happening with a teacher who referred him to Larkin Street. He now lives in one of Larkin Street’s housing programs where he gets proper sleep, food and does his homework. Since entering our programs, Rudy graduated high school with honors, enrolled in San Francisco State to pursue a career in nursing and most importantly, according to him, found his ambition. He currently works two jobs and has an internship helping undocumented and LGBTQ-identified young people.

Young people enjoyed games, flower crown making, makeup giveaways and a photo booth at our Queer Youth Space at SF Pride, designed to provide a safe and social atmosphere for LGBTQ youth and their allies.
Back in 2013 when he first moved to San Francisco from NYC, Alex Smith didn’t have the slightest clue what Larkin Street Youth Services was. What he did know immediately was that there were far too many people living on the streets for such a prosperous city.

Asking around his office at JPMorgan, he quickly found there to be strong connectivity to a local non-profit that proved their efficiency through powerful statistics. Alex jumped in, helping reinvigorate our young professionals board, Friends of Larkin Street, and became a co-chair of our annual Bay Area CFO of the Year Awards. He is also an active financial contributor, recognizing the importance of generosity of both individuals and local businesses in the work to end youth homelessness.

In my six years of being involved with Larkin Street, I’ve been so impressed with the passion and dedication of the team day-in and day-out.”

“CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

My favorite memory is going from a client to volunteer staff from 1985 to 1987...Also watching the rebuilding of the Center after a devastating fire.”

@castroglen via Twitter

Staff and youth from Larkin Street built on previous policy accomplishments and advocated for greater support, including working with State Senator Scott Wiener on AB 307, as well as a successful citywide campaign to sustain housing.

Staff, family, and friends celebrated our Annual Education Graduation in August where we recognized young people who made educational accomplishments in the past year.
Randell Jackson sees her role at Larkin Street as an opportunity to practice her passion for helping young people. As an Education and Employment Counselor in our Larkin Street Academy, Randell works with young people one-on-one to help them thrive in school and the workplace.

Randell’s typical work day consists of young people dropping by or calling for advice with everything from job interviews to financial aid applications. Due to their experiences with homelessness or housing instability, many of the young people who come to Larkin Street have never written a resume or visited a college campus. Randell appreciates having the opportunity to support young people taking steps like these on their journeys to reach their goals.

While she encourages young people to try new things, she also reminds them that they can rely on her and Larkin Street when needed.

They’re all really bright individuals and a lot of them just need some guidance and somebody to talk things out with. They make great strides and put forth an honest effort.”

Launched by Mayor London Breed, Rising Up is a public-private partnership with a goal to achieve a 50% reduction in youth homelessness by 2023. Working with six City departments, five non-profit organizations, numerous local companies, and a group of philanthropic supporters, Larkin Street is the anchor non-profit institution and fiscal sponsor of this initiative. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is the lead government agency. Rising Up will provide rapid rehousing services to at least 500 young people, and help prevent homelessness for an additional 450 young people.

The program will cost $35 million in public and private funds. Mayor Breed has invested $10 million of public funding and another $6 million in private funding has been secured. Many thanks to the early supporters including Airbnb, AT&T, Twilio, Twitter, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Tipping Point Community, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Brenda Jewett, Maryam and Oran Muduroglu, and JaMel and Tom Perkins.

To learn more, visit larkinstreetyouth.org/rising-up
WHAT’S AHEAD

Our Goal:
Reduce youth homelessness by 50% by 2023

The Challenge
On any given night in San Francisco, more than 1,100 young people are without a safe and stable place to sleep. Youth of color and LGBTQ youth are significantly overrepresented in the homeless population, and many of the young people Larkin Street serves require more mental health and employment supports than are currently available.

To meet these needs, Larkin Street has launched a new strategic plan, which includes scaling our programs significantly. We must also sustain our existing services and infrastructure while providing system-wide leadership to fulfill our goal: reducing the number of homeless youth in San Francisco by 50% by 2023.

Guiding Principles of our Service Model

Solving homelessness for all begins with solving it for youth of color and LGBTQ youth
We amplify youth voice and leadership internally and externally
We support youth in building resilience through affirming relationships
We use data to drive continuous learning and improvement

2020-2023 Strategic Priorities

PROGRAM SERVICES
• Quadruple the number of youth receiving housing subsidies
• Optimize education, employment, and mental health services
• Strengthen prevention, diversion, and outreach services

SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP
• Provide leadership and structure for area-wide partnership
• Set local and regional policy priorities
• Center youth as leaders and experts

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY
• Model equity and inclusion across programs and operations
• Sustain our workforce through increased staff support
• Strengthen our financial foundation to protect from external challenges

FINANCIALS

REVENUES
$30,027,270

49%
Private Contributions

46%
Public Sources

4%
Other

 Restricted funds for use in future years: $4,610,929

EXPENSES
$25,097,717

49%
Shelter and Housing

19%
Education and Employment

18%
Administrative

4%
Fundraising

4%
Healthcare

6%
Outreach and Engagement

Figures are taken from FY 18-19 unaudited financial statements. FY 18-19 audited financial statements will be available in December 2019.
Ending homelessness for all starts with ending youth homelessness. Your support is integral in making this vision a reality.

GIVE. Making a donation online, through a DAF, as stock, or in your estate enables us to invest strategically in providing innovative housing, health, and educational programs.

MATCH. Many businesses match their employees’ donations, or offer “dollars for doers” incentives for volunteers, doubing and even tripping your impact!

VOLUNTEER. Support the work to end homelessness by hosting awareness, fundraising, or supplies drives in your communities.

Larkin Street has made every effort to list donors accurately. If you feel your name has been withheld or reported incorrectly, please contact us at (415) 673-0911 ext. 301.

Thank you for your support of the movement to end youth homelessness!

Ending homelessness for all starts with ending youth homelessness. Your support is integral in making this vision a reality.

GIVE. Making a donation online, through a DAF, as stock, or in your estate enables us to invest strategically in providing innovative housing, health, and educational programs.

MATCH. Many businesses match their employees’ donations, or offer “dollars for doers” incentives for volunteers, doubling and even tripping your impact!

VOLUNTEER. Support the work to end homelessness by hosting awareness, fundraising, or supplies drives in your communities.

SPONSOR. Corporate sponsorships are integral to the success of our special events and offer meaningful marketing visibility.

SHARE. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn to stay up-to-date on our latest news, photos, and videos and share with your friends.

For more information about any of these opportunities to make an impact, contact us! (415) 673-0911 ext. 301 gifts@larkinstreetyouth.org
MISSION

To create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the street. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all.

VISION

To end youth homelessness by making it rare, brief, and one-time.

WHAT WE DO

- HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- HOUSING
- EMPLOYMENT
- EDUCATION