



# 30 MILESTONES

William F. Campbell



YOUTH SERVICES

# **30** YEARS **30 MILESTONES**

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YOUTH SERVICES

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## FORWARD

This book is a celebration of Larkin Street Youth Services and the innovative work we have done with thousands of incredible youth over the past 30 years. When Larkin Street opened its doors in 1984, its programs were already at the cutting edge. Though modest compared with what we've grown into, our multi-service model was hailed from the outset as "the wave of the future" in helping homeless youth get off the streets.

Thirty years later, we have stayed at the cutting edge of homeless youth services. As we celebrate and reflect on the past three decades, I become even more excited by the work and the opportunities ahead of us. We are poised to use the lessons we have learned during these 30 years to create a more robust portfolio of services to deepen our impact and transform the lives of even more young people.

We have set our sights high. Over the next three years, we will:

- Triple the number of young people who receive intensive, personalized education and employment services
- Integrate innovative learning methods and models that blend academic and career-based curricula
- Deepen, expand and refine our case management and engagement services to move more youth more effectively through our continuum
- Bring better technology to our youth and staff
- Create the best facilities for our services

Together, these efforts will support the ambitious outcomes we seek for the youth in our care: two years of post-secondary school, sustainable living-wage employment and safe and stable housing, health and well-being. As we look forward to another 30 years of field leadership, we will continue to inspire hope in every young person who walks through our doors.

Sherilyn Adams  
Executive Director  
February 2014



## “If Not Us, Who?”

**Old First Presbyterian Church hosts Town Hall community meetings to discuss how to help young people living on the streets in Polk Gulch and the Tenderloin.**

*“We knew the young people on the streets needed help. We didn’t have the expertise and resources to provide it, but we felt, if not us, who? So we called a Town Hall meeting to discuss their needs. Members of religious organizations, neighbors, medical and mental health experts, merchants, police officers and street youth came. We met in groups to discuss health, safety, housing, substance abuse, LGBT issues and youth prostitution. At the end of the day, we formed a steering committee to seek solutions.”*

- Founding board member Bill Campbell

1





## A Storefront Becomes a Refuge and Gateway

Larkin Street Youth Center opens at 1040 Larkin Street, and outreach staff and volunteers from Larkin Street and partner agencies engage youth on the streets.

The Center provides individual and group counseling, food vouchers, referrals for housing and job training by partner organizations and soon expands to add a tiny medical clinic, staffed by Department of Public Health professionals. An on-site school, led by a San Francisco Unified School District teacher, offers assessments and individual instruction.

*"Drop-In has been a really positive experience for me. I like hanging out there, and the counselors are easy to talk to. All the different services are also really helpful. I am taking classes at the school and hope to get my GED."*

- Roger - Larkin Street client

## Larkin Street Model Is "the Wave of the Future"

Larkin Street's *"New Approach to Aiding Runaways Is Keeping Many Off the Street."*

*The Christian Science Monitor* reports on Larkin Street's service model and early success. Before Larkin Street, the *Monitor* noted, San Francisco provided services to homeless kids only in an emergency, an attempted suicide, or a drug overdose; and then the services were piecemeal. Homeless kids rarely attempted the social service maze. They did not know how, or they were wary of being sent to jail or back home. What made Larkin Street different was that it sent outreach workers into the streets to build rapport and offer options.

*"Except for a few scattered services like overnight shelters or halfway houses, the United States has no social-service network specifically for homeless teenagers. And Larkin Street's success as a multiservice program - backed by political support in the community - has been called the 'wave of the future' for homeless youth."*

- *Christian Science Monitor*, November 15, 1984



B10 Sunday, September 23, 1984 ★★

San Francisco

# San Francisco Examiner

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## Editorials

### Save the Larkin Street center

**S**ORRY, FOLKS, the kids aren't all right. Those 14-year-old kids you see on Polk Street in San Francisco aren't just hanging out with their buddies on Friday night. They're hustling. Selling their bodies, selling their youth.

It's an ugly world that some people don't want to read about. Some don't want to be told how sick and raw life can be. They want Polk Street to be picturesque; they don't want to see the treachery and agony underneath.

Family. Most of these kids have been betrayed by "family." They've been sexually abused. They've been beaten up, kicked out, tossed about from foster home to uncaring relative to foster home. They end up here, and the rainbow ends.

Another bit of irony — a sad "family" joke — is this: that one safe haven — one hope for kids to get off the street before it destroys them — is

places. It intimidates them, and they're wary. And Larkin Street is a realistic program. Staffers don't expect miracles and they don't expect a kid to change his life in three days. But they do get results. In its first six months of operation, the center helped some 800 teen-agers. It figures it can help about 1,000 youths a year.

Of the 137 who enrolled in the center's formal long-term program, 47 percent went back home, 16 percent found jobs and 18 percent were placed in stable living conditions. The rest — 19 percent — dropped out.

Now survival's the name of the game for the center itself. The need is indisputable. It's estimated that there are between 1,000 and 2,000 homeless teen-agers in San Francisco. But there are only 24 beds in The City for runaways under 15 and another 10 beds for those over 15.



1985-1988

### Proven Success: "Save the Larkin Street Center"

**In the first six months, over three-quarters of the youth who meet with counselors four times or more break free from the street. Some return to their home communities. Others find the stable housing or jobs they need to begin productive lives.**

Initial funding through a nonrenewable federal demonstration grant expires in December 1984; but, at the urging of Mayor Dianne Feinstein and the community, the Board of Supervisors provides funds to allow the Drop-In Center to stay open six more months.

*"These young people are not going to disappear. They will not go away."*  
- Former Larkin Street Youth Center Director  
Russell Zeller, quoted in San Francisco Chronicle

*"Larkin Street, with its single location and range of services — counseling, shelter by day, medical care and food vouchers, help in finding housing and jobs — is an effective program."*  
- San Francisco Examiner editorial "Save the Larkin Street Center"

### "We Were Going to Make It Happen for the Kids, Regardless."

Life on the street becomes tougher than ever. The crack cocaine epidemic devastates families across the country and makes the street increasingly violent. A fire damages the Drop-In Center in 1985, and street youth hold a vigil outside the burned-out storefront.

*"It was a very tough start. Our goals clearly outstripped our capacity. But it was more important that we have a passion for the kids and for creating opportunities for them than that we be a 'professional' organization. We had this absolute determination that, even if everyone told us we wouldn't succeed, we were going to make it happen for the kids, regardless."*  
- Jed Emerson — Former Executive Director

*"The people here at the center really helped me. I don't walk the streets anymore. I've been off drugs about three months. I've been a hustler since I was 10."*  
- Joseph — Larkin Street client, quoted in the San Francisco Examiner

*"I came here looking for help when I was cold out on the streets. They got me back in school and got me talking to my parents. I feel bad because this was the only place for me to go."*  
- Alissa — Larkin Street client, quoted in San Francisco Chronicle





**The New York Times**



**1988-1990**

## A Pioneering Model for AIDS Education and Prevention for Street Youth

Larkin Street is one of the first organizations nationally to conduct street-based HIV/AIDS prevention and outreach to kids.

Explaining the risks of HIV/AIDS and how to use condoms and clean needles with bleach was pioneering – and controversial.

*“The early work done by Jed set the stage for the organization to emerge as an international leader in HIV/AIDS for youth. At the time, most youth organizations were not dealing with the crisis. Jed took a lot of criticism for wanting to test kids, educate them about AIDS and hand out condoms, which was radical for its time.”*

- Former Executive Director Diane Flannery

## A Highly Effective Program with Scant Government Support

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, in 1998 Larkin Street expands services to reach young people 18 and over. Larkin Street’s work receives national media attention in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, *CNN* and *Psychology Today*. Still, Larkin Street struggles to raise the funds necessary to survive.

California’s Little Hoover Commission recommends that the state increase its support for nonprofit programs serving street kids. The Commission points to estimates that \$873 in state support would pay for shelter, food, counseling and medical care for one youth for one year, compared with a state cost of \$4,000 for custodial or foster care, or \$27,000 for incarceration.

*“Larkin Street’s tireless staff . . . is fighting an outmanned battle with scant government ammunition.”*

- *Newsweek*, April 25, 1988

*“I took the development job because Jed and Diane said, ‘We can’t make payroll and you can write.’”*

- Former Executive Director Roxane White





1988-1992

## An International Model for Fighting a Growing AIDS Epidemic

In 1990, Larkin Street publishes the nation's first manual on AIDS and street youth. U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop writes the Preface.

Larkin Street forges collaborations with the City's Department of Health and San Francisco General Hospital to design intervention strategies and train staff. In 1991-92, Larkin Street hosts an international conference on AIDS and street youth and collaborates on another. In 1992, Larkin Street embarks on a five-year relationship with researchers at Columbia University to study HIV prevention and treatments.

*"We designed some of the first HIV educational programs for youth in the world. Many programs across the country designed their programs after Larkin's. Kids were getting sick really fast, to the point that we wrote a grant to the Magic Johnson Foundation for money for funerals. A lot of times there was no one to contact. It was one of the first grants they gave."*

- Former Program Director Mike Kennedy



1991-1993

## High Expectations and "a Lot of Hard Growing"

In the first four months of 1991, Larkin Street helped more young people than in all of 1990.

In the early 90s, the U.S. economy suffers from both inflation and high unemployment. More and more young people seeking services are refugees from Central America who speak little or no English and have no family support in the U.S. Clients flood Larkin Street's medical clinic and counseling program. Larkin Street hires bi-lingual and bi-cultural outreach workers and case managers to better serve Latino and Latina youth.

In 1993, Larkin Street assumes management of its first housing program, Diamond Youth Shelter, a 20-bed emergency shelter for youth 18 and under that Catholic Charities had operated since 1984. Larkin Street also spins off Larkin Street Business Ventures, now Juma Ventures, a successful nonprofit helping disadvantaged youth obtain part-time and summer employment.

*"It was a tumultuous time."*

- Former Board Chair Mary Lester

*"There was a lot of hard growing."*

- Former Board Chair James Canales





1993

## A New Outcomes-Based Mission: Help Youth Exit the Street Permanently

Larkin Street never gives up on a kid. Giving hope is our secret for success. Despite many obstacles, Larkin Street youth continue to overcome them and succeed. In 30 years, Larkin Street has equipped tens of thousands of young people to exit street life and empowered them to live independent, productive lives.

*"Larkin Street plugs into the resilience of kids,"* former staff member Daniel Pitasky says. *"That begins with developing a relationship with the young person. Then the professional team figures out how to help the youth get from point A to point B, so that he or she can stay alive and ultimately attain success."* Some Larkin Street clients face tough, tough challenges. Sherilyn Adams explains, *"The most important thing we do every day is to instill hope."*

Larkin Street's secret, says former Program Director Sam Cobbs, is *"We never give up on a kid."*

In 1999, as he is about to receive his architecture degree, a former Diamond Youth Shelter resident sits down and writes a thank-you note: *"If it were not for Larkin Street, I would have been dead by now – when I came to Diamond, I always thought I wouldn't see my 18th birthday, but here I am. . . . Who knew I'd end up going to Cornell?"*



1994

## A Former Pet Shop Becomes a Welcoming Gateway in the Haight

Larkin Street opens the Haight Street Referral Center, a new gateway for youth in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood.

The location, where youth are – near Golden Gate Park and "the Haight" – helps young people take that critical first step off the street. In a small storefront, the Referral Center offers a safe, welcoming environment, snacks, individual and group counseling, case management and health screening, including HIV testing.

The impact is immediate and lasting as more youth access Larkin Street programs. In 1994–95, the number of youth served by Diamond Youth Shelter increases by 25 percent.

To ask homeless youth in the Haight-Ashbury to cross the city to Larkin Street was *"like asking them to go to Mars."*

- Former Executive Director Anne Stanton





## Art with a Purpose: Magical Murals

Youth in Larkin Street's Art Program design and create breathtaking mosaics for the Powell Street BART/MUNI station.

For the BART project, 309 young people create 96 mosaic panels, each 4 feet by 2 feet. The exhibit opens in 1995 as a temporary installation, and it is now on permanent display.

Larkin Street's Art Program offers youth powerful outlets for individual and collective expression of their talents and voices. The Art Program, founded by 25-year staffer, Peter Carpou, launched in 1989. Through art, Larkin Street engages with young people, helps them build self-esteem, trust and hope and connects them in Larkin Street's broader array of services.

*"It's a very difficult job to do well, and nothing less will do."* - Art program founder Peter Carpou

*"I can still remember Peter standing there surrounded by kids, organizing art projects in the tiny Drop-In Center and the incredible focus he had on why it was important."*

- Former Executive Director Jed Emerson



## Avenues to Independence: Stable Housing Makes Stable Lives Possible

Larkin Street opens its first transitional living program, Avenues to Independence (ATI), a major step forward in creating independent futures for young people, ages 18 to 24.

Older youth on the street represent a widely underserved group who are at high risk of joining the adult homeless population. Few are ready to live on their own and support themselves. ATI residents learn skills essential to a successful transition to self-sufficient adult life, such as opening a bank account, budgeting and cooking – skills that many young people learn from their families. Larkin Street engages them in career counseling and helps them advance their education.

Youth pay 30 percent of their monthly income as "rent." These funds are returned upon graduation from the program and serve as a nest egg for obtaining permanent housing. In the program's first year, ninety percent of ATI graduates secure permanent housing and independence.

*"ATI was a great experience for me. As a result, I am much more confident in what I can accomplish."*

- Jose – Larkin Street client

By the close of Jose's stay at ATI, he was an assistant supervisor at Safeway and had signed a lease for his own apartment.





1997



1998



## New HIV Assisted Care and After Care Facility Opens Doors to Healthier Lives

**Larkin Street opens the Assisted Care/After Care (AC/AC) facility in the Tenderloin. It is the country's first licensed residential care facility for youth living with HIV/AIDS.**

AC/AC provides comprehensive 24-hour care, including coordinated medical, psychosocial and supportive services, such as case management, recreation, and counseling. The space, colors and prevalence of light are all designed to create a nurturing and therapeutic environment.

The first floor of the new facility becomes the new home for the After Care program. It includes a full spectrum of services for HIV+ youth, including case management, psychosocial support, comprehensive medical care, vouchers for emergency housing and scattered-site, rent-subsidized apartments.

The Assisted Care component, located on the two upper floors, serves youth who need a structured setting to preserve their health. They have their own rooms and share a community area with kitchen and dining facilities and a living and recreation area. The advent of antiretroviral drugs later allows hundreds of formerly homeless youth with HIV to live independently in the community.

## HIV Specialty Clinic Expands Treatment Opportunities

**HIV+ youth receive confidential testing and outpatient support essential to antiretroviral therapies and are eligible to participate in clinical trials.**

The Specialty Clinic operates in partnership with medical providers at UCSF and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. It is staffed by two physicians, a medical assistant and a registered nurse manager and includes a pharmacy. The Clinic provides extensive outreach to promote confidential testing. By centralizing medical, social and housing services in one location and offering flexible hours, Larkin Street eliminates barriers for HIV+ youth.





## Hire Up Education and Employment Program Provides Skills for Self-Sufficiency

Larkin Street unifies its education and employment services for homeless young people through the Hire Up comprehensive education and workforce development initiative.

The Youth Force day labor program gives immediate, safe, legitimate, paid employment to all youth who want to work. Youth learn the importance of being on time, following directions, completing projects, and working as part of a team. Hire Up's 4-week Job Readiness Course then prepares youth for employment by helping them identify interests and strengths and learn how to write a resume, apply for work, interview, and advance in the workplace. The Wire Up program prepares youth for success by learning the skills that employers in the technology sector say they need most.

In later years, Larkin Street adds three related programs. The Institute for Hire Learning offers paid internship opportunities that prepare youth for career-track employment. The Hire Access program and College Success Workshops help youth attain their post-secondary education goals.

*"My long term goal is to become a nurse. I always wanted to do something like that, but never thought I could. When I came to Larkin Street, they helped me to realize that I can do this; I do have the skills and the talent."*

-Jamyla – Larkin Street client



## San Francisco's First Emergency Shelter for Youth, 18-24

Larkin Street opens the Lark-Inn for Youth, San Francisco's first and only 24-hour, full-service emergency shelter for young people between the ages of 18 and 24.

A 40-bed facility that provides safe, emergency housing for up to four months, the Lark-Inn includes sleeping areas, a kitchen, a community dining area and living room, laundry facilities, bathrooms, a kennel for pets and a computer lab and resource center. Case managers help youth outline short- and long-term goals and specific steps for achieving self-sufficiency. Youth have full access to Larkin Street's medical, counseling and educational and employment services. When their Lark-Inn residency ends, clients may reunite with family or establish residency in a transitional living facility.

*"It's like a college dorm; it doesn't feel like a shelter at all. They try to do youth-oriented things, like go on art trips, go to the museum, go to the symphony and incorporate San Francisco culture."*

- Nadia – Larkin Street client





2001



## The Nation's First Permanent Affordable Housing for Homeless Youth

In collaboration with Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, Larkin Street opens the Ellis Street Apartments, the country's first permanent housing for homeless youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

The apartments provide affordable, permanent housing for up to 24 homeless and at-risk youth with six reserved for youth diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Residents pay one-third of their monthly income in rent and assume real-life responsibilities. A case manager is on site, and youth may continue to access Larkin Street's supportive services.

*"The staff at the Lark-Inn helped us with all the paperwork. I got there the day before and was still like the third person in line, 24 hours before they opened. I stayed there all night."*

- Martin - Ellis Street Apartments resident



2002

## Saving a Critical Transitional Living Program for Younger Youth

After another nonprofit decides to close a group home serving youth, ages 15-17, Larkin Street buys the building and reopens it as the LOFT, Larkin Opportunities for Transition.

The LOFT's supportive nine-bed group home provides a positive alternative to traditional group homes and foster homes for younger youth who cannot return home because their families are unwilling or unable to care for them. Larkin Street purchases the South of Market building with support from the City and reopens the facility.

Each youth at the LOFT prepares and carries out an educational plan to meet personal goals and develop job readiness skills. Strong emphasis on supportive counseling, life skills and career assessment helps residents develop motivation and skills to achieve long-term success.





2003

## Expanded Drop-In Center Welcomes Youth

**Larkin Street's Drop-In Center relocates to Sutter Street and gains fifty percent more space.**

The new Drop-In Center offers a welcoming environment, drop-in services, counseling, case management, the on-site school, the medical clinic, the art program, lockers, showers and a kitchen.

*"Larkin Street is so much more than an address. It's the belief we have in youth, and this space really communicates that. The environment sends very clear messages to young people about what you care about, and how you care about them."*

- Former Executive Director Anne Stanton, quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*

The new gateway to all Larkin Street services will *"help us to be even more effective in helping kids take the hardest step – their first one off the street."*

- Former Director of Underage Services, Aron Sumii

*"The new place is awesome. It makes me feel like people do have hearts, like there are beautiful people in the world who care about strangers."*

- 17-year-old client Danielle, quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*



2003-2004

## Former Foster Youth Gain from Subsidized, Supportive Housing

**Larkin Street expands its housing programs with LEASE (Larkin Extended Aftercare for Supported Emancipation), which provides subsidized, supportive, scattered-site housing for youth who are aging out of the foster care system.**

San Francisco has the highest rate of youth in the foster care system in California. Many youth become homeless after emancipating from foster care because they lack the skills and support to make the transition to independent living.

Vulnerable youth enter LEASE after they have aged out of foster care and receive housing and access to Larkin Street case management, education, employment, job training, life skills and mental health and substance abuse services. LEASE opens with 21 apartments.



2004



## Castro Youth Housing Provides Homes for LGBTQ Youth

**Building on an idea of San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Larkin Street opens a housing program with supportive services for youth, ages 18-24, who identify as LGBTQ.**

With the assistance of the Department of Human Services, Larkin Street acquires 12 rooms in a residential hotel in the Castro neighborhood. The Castro Youth Housing Initiative provides housing and links young people to supportive services – including comprehensive case management, health, mental health, substance abuse, HIV services and educational and employment programs.

*“LGBTQ youth see San Francisco as their refuge or Mecca. When we support Larkin Street and the Castro Youth Housing Program, we’re ensuring that our young people are safe and productive – not left on the streets at risk for violence, addiction and other health risks.”*

- Bevan Dufty, Member of San Francisco Board of Supervisors (2002- 2010), Director of Mayor’s Office of HOPE

2006



## Routz Program Offers Independent Living to Youth with Mental Health Challenges

**Routz helps youth with significant mental health needs, many of whom face conditions that complicate their care, such as substance abuse, addiction and other health issues.**

Working with a behavioral health team at San Francisco’s Department of Public Health, Larkin Street reaches out to eligible young people and provides housing, intensive case management, psychiatric care and education and employment services. Routz youth have their own apartments scattered across the city and engage with case managers who assist them with independent living skills, like handling a bank account and grocery shopping, and link youth to mental health providers. A licensed therapist from the Edgewood Center for Children and Families leads individual sessions, group sessions, and training for Larkin Street staff.

One Routz client, who had felt marginalized his whole life and now has a place to call home, relates, “My case manager opened the door with the key card, and all of sudden she opens the door and I was like, ‘Oh, my God, this is beautiful.’”





2007

## G-House Expands Services for Highly Street-Engaged Homeless Youth

**G-House opens as a residential program serving youth, 18 to 24, who face multiple barriers to exiting the street.**

G-House fills a critical gap in the city's continuum of transitional living services for youth. G-House is home to up to 35 homeless youth, ages 18 – 24. These youth are often struggling with issues related to their mental health or substance abuse, or lacking the most basic life skills necessary for success. The program emphasizes intensive support and life-skills training that young people need for independent living. Youth may stay at G-House for up to 2 years while they focus on essential life skills and pursue their education and employment goals.

Former G-House manager Andrea Canaan acknowledges that G-House young people have pasts that are “pretty unimaginable,” but the staff builds on clients’ resilience and motivation. Canaan underscores Larkin Street’s high expectations: *“The structure here is you’ve got to work. You’ve got to work. You’ve got to work.”*

2008



## Holloway House Expands Larkin Street’s Transitional Living Capacity

**The addition of eight beds at Holloway House brings Larkin Street’s total complement of transitional housing beds for youth to 193.**

Another nonprofit closes a three-story, eight-bed facility for homeless youth. The building sits empty, and the Mayor’s Office of Housing approaches Larkin Street about opening a housing program there. Within a short time, Larkin Street fills all eight beds and increases its capacity for transitional housing for youth.





2009

# FRIENDS OF LARKIN STREET



2010

## Friends of Larkin Street Relaunches

**Friends of Larkin Street, a group of young professionals passionate about Larkin Street's cause, relauches to spread the word about Larkin Street.**

With a mission to expand awareness and fundraising potential among donors, ages 35-50, volunteers Dana Hermansen, Marilyn Campbell, Laurie Thomas and Michelle Pampin inspire others to unite to create Friends of Larkin Street. In four years, the group hosts nine successful events, increases Larkin Street's visibility in the community, brings new donors and raises over \$180,000 in unrestricted funding for Larkin Street's programs for youth.

*"I'm really impressed at how willing people are to contribute to Larkin Street in some capacity after they become aware of the problems facing homeless youth in San Francisco and the great work Larkin Street does to help youth succeed."*

- Friends leader Dana Hermansen

## Diamond Youth Shelter Reopens with a State-of-the-Art Facility for Youth Under 18

**After careful study and a \$3.5 million capital campaign, Larkin Street beautifully rebuilds Diamond Youth Shelter, now a state-of-the-art emergency shelter for younger youth.**

The new shelter, located near the Golden Gate Park Panhandle, offers youth a welcoming, home-like environment and provides twice the square footage of the original facility. Small bedrooms replace two large dormitories; and study alcoves, private counseling areas, a spacious kitchen and common areas are included.

*"Kids will know they are valued from the very moment they open the door."*

- Capital campaign chair Phil Estes





2011

## Edward II Project Gains City Approval for Expanded Housing Capacity for Youth, ages 18-24

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approves the Edward II project, which will provide 24 new units of safe and affordable housing for youth, ages 18 to 24, beginning in 2015.

The Board's approval caps two years of collaboration by Larkin Street and Community Housing Partnership, as well as housing advocates, service providers, tenants, youth, Marina and Cow Hollow neighbors, public officials, small business owners and religious leaders.

Following renovations to the former Edward II inn, the new housing program will open in 2015. Residents will receive job training, case management and educational support, both on site and through Larkin Street's education and employment programs.

*"I understand that housing combined with deep education and employment services provides the foundation for homeless youth to be able to stabilize and find a path off the street. I have great respect for the services that Larkin Street Youth Services provides for our most vulnerable young people, and I look forward to welcoming them into the Marina/Cow Hollow community."*

- Mark Farrell, Member of San Francisco Board of Supervisors



2012

## Aarti Hotel Doubles Capacity for Housing Youth with Severe Mental Health Needs

The Aarti Hotel, a newly-renovated single-room occupancy Tenderloin hotel, reopens its doors to 40 young people with the most serious mental health needs.

Larkin Street and partners such as the Family Services Agency provide housing, service-rich case management, therapeutic services and other wrap-around supports to 40 formerly homeless and at risk youth, ages 18-24. Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation renovated the 1907 building and provides property management services.

In the adjacent, previously drug and crime-infested alley that is now a green/art space, Larkin Street's Sherilyn Adams spoke at the reopening celebration:

*"We are standing in this beautiful, remarkable forest to celebrate housing 40 formerly homeless youth needing mental health services. . . . Aarti is a beautiful home here, to help youth reach their full potential."*

- Executive Director Sherilyn Adams, quoted in *Fog City Journal*

*"It's a lot to people that live here. It means everything to us."*

- Resident Candra Hudson, quoted by KQED News





2013

## Castro Youth Housing Initiative Secures Funding for Ten More Beds

**Larkin Street secures funding to expand its 2004 Castro Youth Housing Initiative to 32 beds to serve homeless youth who identify as LGBTQ in the Castro neighborhood.**

For youth who have been marginalized by their families and communities, the Castro Youth Housing Initiative is a place where they are accepted for who they are and are supported as they determine who they will become. Services include ample peer support and mentorship from understanding adults, as well as housing, case management, life skills training, referrals for mental health and substance abuse counseling and access to Larkin Street’s full continuum of services, including educational support and employment training.

In early 2014, Larkin Street provides a total of 270 beds for homeless and at-risk young people and, equally important, a supportive environment where they are encouraged to see a future full of potential and to have opportunities to grow and flourish.

## Larkin Street at 30

### Programs and Services

Today, in Larkin Street’s 30th year of operation, its service continuum includes 25 programs provided from 15 locations across San Francisco. Each program or service is expressly designed to meet the needs of homeless and runaway youth.

#### Point of Entry

- Street Outreach
- Drop-In Center
- Haight Street Referral Center

#### Housing

##### Emergency Housing

- Diamond Youth Shelter - ages 12-17
- Lark-Inn for Youth - ages 18-24

##### Transitional Housing

- LOFT - ages 15-18
- Avenues to Independence - ages 18-24
- G-House - ages 18-24
- Holloway House - ages 18-24
- Assisted Care - ages 18-24, HIV positive youth
- After Care - ages 18-24, HIV positive youth
- Castro Youth Housing Initiative - ages 18-24, LGBTQ youth
- LEASE - ages 18-24, former foster care youth
- Routz - ages 18-24, youth with mental health issues

##### Permanent Youth Housing

- Ellis Street Apartment - ages 18-24



# Larkin Street at 30

## Support Services

- Behavioral Health
- Medical Clinic
- HIV Specialty Clinic
- HIV Prevention
- Education Services - under age 18
- Post-Secondary Education Services - ages 18-24
- Employment Services
- YouthForce day labor program
- Job Readiness Course
- Institute for Higher Learning
- Community Art Program

# Larkin Street at 30

## Larkin Street Metrics: 2013 Snapshot

Number of youth served:	3,463
Beds for homeless youth, ages 12-24:	270
Nights off the Street:	85,185
Counseling sessions and late night talks per year:	100,765
Youth served at the Medical Clinic:	614
Youth Enrolled in postsecondary education:	99
Youth employed:	154
Number of Larkin Street employees:	192
Volunteer hours contributed annually:	18,200
Percentage of funds raised that directly support programs:	86%
Percentage of the youth who complete Larkin Street's comprehensive programs who exit street life:	81%



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## Awards Received by Larkin Street

- Tipping Point Community Award, 2013
- Bank of America’s Neighborhood Builders Award, 2012
- White House Champions of Change in the Fight Against Youth Homelessness, Sherilyn Adams, 2012
- San Francisco Business Times Bay Area’s Most Admired CEO Award, Sherilyn Adams, 2009
- SF LGBT Pride Celebration Committee’s Pride Heritage Award, 2009
- San Francisco Business Times Most Influential Women in Business Award, Sherilyn Adams, 2009
- Lewis Hine Award for Outstanding Service to Youth, Sherilyn Adams, 2008
- San Francisco 49ers’ Perry/Yonamine Unity Award, 2007
- San Francisco Mental Health Board’s Exceptional Programs and People Award, 2007
- National Foster Care Parents’ National Foster Care Month: Change a Lifetime Award, 2006
- National Network for Youth’s Agency of the Year, 2004
- J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation’s Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, 2003
- Johnson & Johnson’s Crystal Award for Community Healthcare, 2002
- Association for Corporate Growth’s Emerging Non-Profit of the Year, 2002
- National Youth Employment Coalition’s PEPNet Award, 2002
- Precita Eyes Mural Award, 2002
- The Enterprise Foundation and Met Life Foundation’s Award for Excellence in Supportive Housing, 2002
- The Management Center and Wells Fargo Bank’s Trailblazers Award, 2000
- Chevron and the Management Center’s Award for Excellence, 1994
- San Francisco Foundation’s John R. May Award, 1992



# LARKIN STREET

YOUTH SERVICES

Larkin Street Youth Service's mission is to create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the streets. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all.

[www.larkinstreetyouth.org](http://www.larkinstreetyouth.org)