



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2021

MEETING YOUTH IN SPACES AND PLACES THEY FEEL SAFE THE BRIDGE FOR YOUTH LAUNCHES THE MOBILE YOUTH OUTREACH CENTER

Minneapolis, MN – Youth are the most likely segment of Minnesota’s population to be homeless. Nightly in Minnesota, over 6,000 youth experience homelessness, making up nearly half (46%) of the homeless. As a result of COVID-19, the murder of George Floyd and the aftermath and unrest in Minneapolis, now more than ever youth need immediate access to support and resources in spaces and places they feel safe and that are reflective of their community. Committed to meeting the evolving needs of youth, The Bridge for Youth is expanding outreach efforts that “meet youth where they are at” with the launch of **The Mobile Youth Outreach Center**, now accessible to youth throughout the Twin Cities.

“The Bridge has a long-standing commitment to outreach, and views outreach activities as the gateway for services for youth currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness – particularly youth who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and sexually exploited youth. Now more than ever, youth need immediate access to support and resources – delivered where they feel safe and provided in a way that is reflective of their community. One of the most effective engagement strategies to connect with youth experiencing homelessness is through mobile outreach.” – Lisa Mears, Executive Director

The Bridge Mobile Youth Outreach Center prioritizes meeting the immediate needs of BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and sexually exploited youth ages 10-21 in the Twin Cities; bringing services directly to youth, providing mobile intervention to meet immediate basic needs - healthy food, gender affirming clothing, resources for harm reduction and safety planning, assessments and referrals, case management, and most importantly, connection through both 1:1 in-person and virtual support. The Mobile Youth Outreach Center is a safe place for all youth and is available at local schools, partner site locations, community events, and in neighborhoods around the Twin Cities metro area. For information on sites and locations visit the YSNMN app or online at ysnmn.org



About The Bridge for Youth

Open 24/7/365, The Bridge for Youth is a safe place for ALL youth. The Bridge is the only direct access emergency shelter for youth ages 10-17, the only emergency shelter in Minnesota for pregnant/parenting minor age youth and their children, as well as the only site based transitional housing program specifically for minor aged pregnant/parenting youth and their children in Hennepin County. Comprehensive programs include a 24-hour crisis phone/text line, emergency and transitional housing for youth, individual/group/family counseling, and support groups. Founded in 1970, The Bridge for Youth is known nationally for innovative programming that prevents youth homelessness, reunites families, and empowers youth to become healthy productive adults. For more information or to make a financial contribution to support programs at The Bridge visit bridgeforyouth.org

###

Contact

Christina Woodlee, Senior Director of Strategy & Partnerships



612-840-5522

c.woodlee@bridgeforyouth.org