

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2010

Links reached over 16,000 youth from 72 different communities through our Community Education, Clinic and Counseling, and Pride Youth programs last year. With support from our volunteers and donors, we continue to fulfill our mission of empowering young people to make informed, responsible decisions about their health, well-being, and sexuality.

Programs & Services

Our Clinic and Counseling Program, available to ages 13-25, provides young women with routine gynecological care, pregnancy testing and counseling, and affordable access to birth control. Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections is available to both young men and young women, and counseling is always available during our clinic hours or by appointment.

When young people become sexually active, access to reproductive health care is critical to preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Many young people in our community are unable to access traditional care through their family insurance due to concerns about confidentiality. Others may have lost their family insurance due to a parent's job loss. Some of our older clients work in part-time or entry-level jobs where health insurance is not included in their compensation package. Our Clinic and Counseling Program provides an affordable and accessible alternative.

Links has changed my life because it made me realize how important protection is and that it is so important to make smart choices in life.

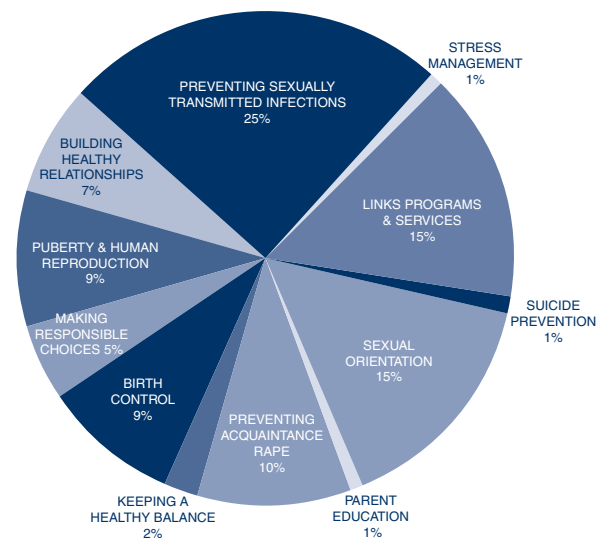
~ a clinic client

724 young people from 66 different communities made 1,759 visits to our clinic last year. 88% were young women and 12% were young men. Most of our clients came from the north and northwest suburbs. Our largest groups came from Glenview, Northbrook, Winnetka, Northfield, Wilmette, Chicago, and Skokie. Clinic staff also responded to 674 additional requests for information and referrals.

Our Community Education Program enhances school curriculum with presentations related to adolescent health and sexuality. Links served 38 elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the north and northwest suburbs, educating students on topics ranging from puberty to stress management to the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, always with a focus on our motto: *Prevention through Education*.

Staff and volunteers made a total of 628 presentations,

speaking to 15,475 youth in grades 5-12 over the course of the year. Our programs covered the following topics:



Our presenters often work with teachers and school social workers to customize our programs to the specific needs of the school. Teachers invite us back year after year because our programs offer in-depth and up-to-date information in the most open and accessible environment possible. Each time we

Thank you so much for coming to our school! Your information was very helpful to my knowledge and judgment about people, choices, responsibility, and the consequences that come with each.

~ student at a North Shore middle school

present, we see students who are initially apprehensive gain the courage to ask questions once they see that our presenters are comfortable discussing subjects often considered difficult. Teachers reinforce our own observations, telling us that the professional distance created by having an outside instructor helps students to get more out of the class.

Our Pride Youth Program is open to youth ages 13-18 who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). The program provides a safe and confidential space

for LGBTQ youth to build community and support each other in addressing their unique issues. Program curriculum is designed to promote a sense of self, integration of

*Pride validates your experiences and gives you the courage to push through them to the other side. It proves to you that your life can be better, and that you don't have to be afraid.
~ a Pride participant*

sexual orientation into one's whole personality, and the development of leadership and communication skills. Frank discussions about substance abuse, prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, healthy relationships, and the coming out process are included throughout.

126 young people from 36 different communities made 1,062 visits to our two Pride Youth Centers in Northfield and Palatine last year. Several of our Pride

Youth participants volunteered to serve as speakers for panel discussions about their experiences as gay high school students. They also volunteered at Chicago's Proud to Run 5K/10K event in June during Pride week.

Volunteer Service

Over 75 volunteers, including 11 physicians, worked with our staff of three full-time and five part-time employees to provide services. Our volunteer doctors and nurses contributed the equivalent of \$34,000 in their time and expertise. Other volunteers donated an additional 2,864 hours last year, which equates to \$64,440 in additional resources for our programs.

Our Board members have a strong commitment to the organization and many volunteer in our programs in addition to their Board service. They led our annual fundraising efforts and hosted our spring benefit, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Sex, Sports, & Rock N' Roll*.

We are also served by our Advisory Board, Auxiliary Board, and the Corporate Community Advisory Board. These Boards promote increased awareness of Links and provide leadership, professional networking opportunities, and fundraising assistance to the agency.

Contributions

We are grateful for the many individuals, foundations, organizations, and businesses that donate to Links in support of our mission. Our donors are recognized on our website at <http://www.linksyouth.org/donors.html>.

Financial Statement

Income Sources

Contributions & Grants	\$189,887
Board Fundraising	91,909
Government Grants	48,377
Program Revenue	43,341
Donated Medical Services	34,000
United Way	32,834
Other	3,645
Total	\$443,993

Expenses

Program Services	\$334,384
Management & General	108,525
Fundraising	21,617
Total	\$464,526

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