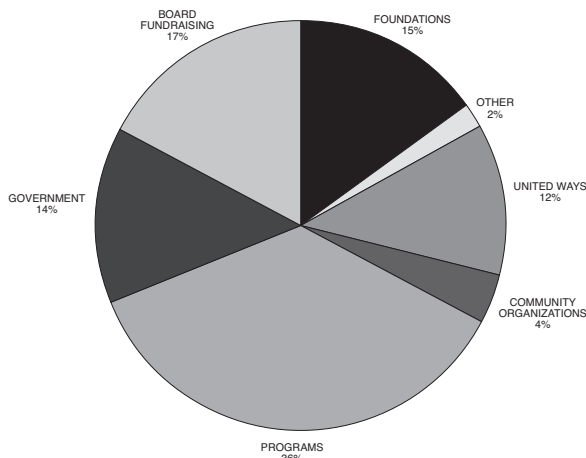
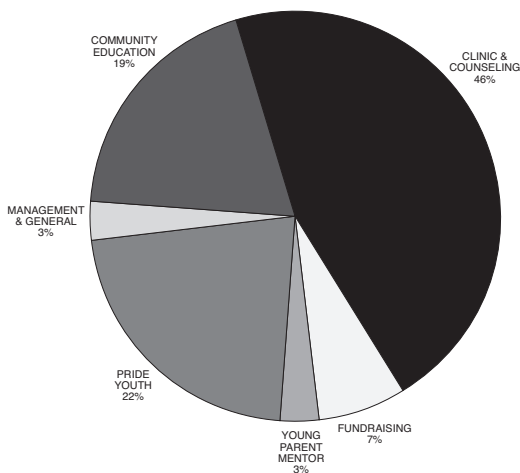


Income Sources – Fiscal Year 2008-2009



Links relies primarily on private funding to meet its projected \$481,747 operating budget for 2009-2010.

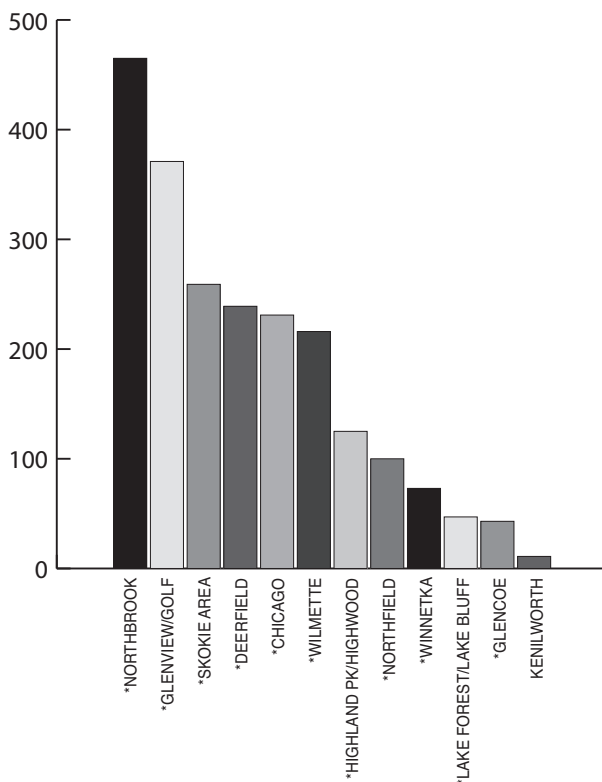
Operating Expenses – Fiscal Year 2008-2009



2008-2009 Statistics Clinic and Pride Youth Breakdown

Young people from 70 local communities made 3,041 visits to Links during fiscal year 2008-2009. 791 young people made 2,119 visits to Clinic. 385 were new clients. In addition, the staff responded to 712 requests for information and referrals.

111 young people made 922 visits to our Pride Youth Program Centers. 56 were new clients. The staff responded to 612 additional requests for information and referrals about sexual minority issues.



*Indicates United Way area
Other communities outside our immediate area that we served in significant numbers included, *Arlington Heights, *Buffalo Grove, *Des Plaines, *Evanston, *Palatine, *Park Ridge and *Wheeling.

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Piper Rothschild
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Donna Elrod
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Loren Hutter, M.D.
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Clinic Supervisor
Suzanne Hales

Pride Youth Program Director
Erschel De Leon, M.Ed.

Community Education Coordinator
Melanie Flynn

Community Education Consultant & Clinic Program Staff
Karen Lygizos, R.N.

Clinic Counselor
Janice Liten, M.S. LPC

Marketing/Development Consultant
Carol Schulz

Office Administrator
Lynne Heller

Medical Director Emeritus
Martin Kass, M.D.



Annual Report 2008-2009

A mother wrote to Links: *"Thank you for your honesty and the reminder of our launching role! Bumps are good, inevitable and great educators. It is very reassuring to know that Links is here to support not only the kids but parents as we support our children's journey!"*

Links-North Shore Youth Health Service
1779 Maple Street
Northfield, Illinois 60093-3001
847.441.6191
www.linksyouth.org



Links' Services in 2007-2008

In the past year, young clients, ages 13 to 25, came to Links from seventy different communities. They were attracted here by our Clinic and Counseling Program, our Pride Youth Program and our Young Parent Mentor Program. We also took our Community Education Program into forty schools. All of our programs fulfilled Links' mission to empower young people to make informed, responsible decisions about their health, well-being and sexuality.

Our **Community Education** staff and volunteers made a total of 863 presentations and shared our "Prevention through Education" message with over 18,000 young people and 1,700 adults. This is a 24% increase over the previous year. The staff also wrote a new brochure on birth control and developed three new programs for parent groups of 5-6 graders, middle school parents and high school parents.

To further educate the general public, our Community Education Coordinator began writing a monthly column on parenting issues, which appears in the Pioneer Press edition of the *Winnetka Talk* edition of the *Pioneer Press* and *Chicago Tribune's Triblocal*.

Thanks to our volunteer doctors, nurses, nurse mid-wife and trained support workers, our **Clinic and Counseling Program** served 791 young people who made 2,119 visits to our clinics last year. Ninety-four percent were female and six percent were male. These clients came from sixty different communities and many come from long distances. We surveyed them and learned that thirty-one per cent of them came because they had no insurance. Twenty-six per cent said that they came to Links because confidentiality was a factor. Our population continues to age and thirty-seven per cent of our clients were twenty-two years old or older. Our Medical Director tells us that more mothers are taking their daughters to private gynecologists so our education efforts are paying off.

We will continue our new partnership with Oakton Community College. In 2008-2009 we

provided our clinic services to over 60 Oakton students as well as HIV testing and counseling on campus. We worked directly with their athletes and talked with them about STI prevention, birth control and healthy sexual practices. We trained Oakton's nursing students to act as Peer Educators in order for them to provide sex education for their fellow students.

Our number of **Pride Youth Program** visits was higher this year. The staff and volunteers served 111 sexual minority young people, who made 922 visits to our program centers in Northfield on Wednesday evenings and Palatine on Thursday evenings. Fifty-six were new clients. Forty-six per cent were female and fifty-four percent were male. The young people come to enjoy the camaraderie at Pride and to understand their roles as active and responsible members of the LGBTQ community.

The young Pride participants volunteered as panelists in ten Speaker Panels in which they discussed their lives as gay high school students and their "coming out" experiences. Our Pride Youth Director continued to offer HIV testing on Wednesday afternoons and by appointment in our Links' Northfield office. The community looks to her as an expert on sexual minority issues and she responded to 612 additional requests for information and referrals during the year.

Last year six Links' trained adult mentors provided 248 volunteer hours to eight adolescent moms and their children in our **Young Parent Mentor Program**. After much consideration, the Board made a difficult decision to discontinue this program at the end of our fiscal year. When we instituted the program in 1991, there were few resources for single mothers who decided to parent their babies. Our staff will continue to counsel young pregnant women and direct them to available resources.

Our **Board of Directors** produced Links' Annual Appeal and held several successful fundraisers. They hosted Links' supporters at their May High Tea and Book Review at the Winnetka Woman's Club. They were actively involved in writing a new Strategic Plan in which they carefully

considered the results of the New Trier Township Alliance for Youth (TAFY) survey, which Links' Executive Director led as a member of the steering committee.

The Corporate Community Advisory Board hosted Jeffrey Siegel with his Keyboard Conversations this fall at Sunset Ridge Country Club as their yearly fundraiser. The group promotes increased awareness of Links and provides leadership, professional networking opportunities and fundraising assistance to the agency.

Links' staff, volunteers and Board members continue to respond to community needs with the common goal of educating young people to understand how the decisions they make today may impact the rest of their lives. It's a team effort and a challenge that we love.

Links' Service Report

Young adults made 3041 visits to Links in 2008-2009. The following is a breakdown of the primary reasons for the visits as stated by the clients:

- Infection Testing/Treatment-11%
- Other Medical/Counseling-5%
- Pregnancy Prevention-49%
- Pregnancy Testing/Counseling-5%
- Pride Youth Program-30%

Use of Volunteers

One hundred and twenty five people volunteered to staff Links' programs in 2008-2009. We e-mailed our monthly in-house newsletter, "Hot Flash," to inform them about the agencies' activities during the year.

Volunteer doctors, nurses, a nurse mid-wife and trained support workers serve in our clinics; other trained volunteers made presentations in our Community Education Program and worked in our Young Parent Mentor Program and the Pride Youth Program; our Pride Youth participants and Youth Board members volunteer in many ways; and our Board members dedicate their hours to

the agency. In 2008-2009, they volunteered over 4,805 hours, which would add over \$105,278 in resources for Links if a volunteer hour is valued at \$21.91.

Community Education Service Report

Links' Community Education staff and volunteers made a total of 863 presentations, speaking to 18,769 youth and 1,728 adults. In addition, we distributed 26,014 educational pamphlets and other awareness materials. The staff is able to augment the sex education programs in many schools by offering specially designed and often customized programs requested by the schools.

Our volunteers provide a new face in the classroom and students tend to be very receptive. They often ask many questions. One junior high school student wrote in her evaluation, "You answered a lot of the questions that I was afraid to ask in class." Another wrote, "I now know that if I ever need help, there is a safe and private place I can go."

The programs presented were on the following topics:

