

Arise Project



MEMBERSHIP

A minimum annual donation of \$500 designated to Arise Project qualifies a donor for membership. Gifts of any amount are appreciated and will support the programs funded through Arise Project.

Benefits of membership include:

- Connecting with others who care about the LGBTQ community
- Learning about and advocating for LGBTQ issues
- Empowering others through learning sessions or peer-to-peer fundraising
- Participating in meaningful volunteer projects serving local homeless youth
- Provide support where there is the greatest need
- Serving on a committee to have your voice included

Greater Twin Cities United Way's Arise Project envisions a Minnesota where all youth, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have the support and resources they need to reach their full potential. Specifically, we see a community where every LGBTQ youth is safe, supported, connected, and full of aspiration. Join this giving community to support organizations, programs, and initiatives that are working to support LGBTQ youth in their goal to obtain and maintain safe, stable, and affordable housing.



OUR PROGRESS

Together, since 2011, we have:

Raised nearly
\$2 Million

Provided grants to
8 nonprofit partners (many receiving multiple grants)

Connected more than
3,300 youth to resources

OUR FOCUS

YOUTH IDENTIFYING AS LGBTQ WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.



According to the Minnesota Homeless Study, at least 23% of an estimated 13,300 youth who experience homelessness identify as LGBTQ. Of those who identify as LGBTQ, 68% identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, or a person of color, compounding the impacts of systemic discrimination.

The need outpaces the currently available resources, with fewer than 120 shelter beds for youth and a severe shortage of supportive housing. We work to address these issues by:

- **Partnering with nonprofits that provide wrap-around services designed specifically for LGBTQ youth**, including outreach, counseling, case management, shelter, and housing.
- **Advocating** for and raising awareness and consensus around the issues faced by LGBTQ communities in our area.



Greater Twin Cities
United Way



GREATER TWIN CITIES UNITED WAY
ARISE PROJECT



Why Arise Project Works

Arise Project is a giving community dedicated to identifying needs for LGBTQ homeless youth that were previously invisible to our community. Our funded nonprofit partners have found that LGBTQ specific programming gives these youth a safe, welcoming way to access services they would otherwise not feel comfortable with.

Here's just one example of how Arise Project funding has impacted a youth supported by our partner, The Bridge for Youth:

“During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, D joined The Bridge’s LGBTQ+ support group, “So What if I Am”, which is being supported by The United Way Arise Project. D, age 13, was attending a parochial Christian school. As someone who identifies as bisexual and uses the pronouns they/them, D did not feel accepted at school and had very few friends. Through their participation in “So What if I Am” D found acceptance and, more importantly, community. D has attended every week, first virtually and later in-person, once COVID restrictions were eased. They have found the experience very supportive, especially once the group shifted back to in-person sessions, giving the opportunity to talk with others face to face.”

Get Involved

Arise Project thrives with active members passionate about supporting and serving the community. Members are encouraged to volunteer on a committee to support and advance the vision.

STEERING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish and leverage community partnerships to promote Arise Project
- Help plan and support Arise Project events by recruiting attendees, managing volunteer roles, and evaluating success based on attendee feedback
- Promote Arise Project within workplace giving campaigns and Employee Resource Groups
- Organize volunteer activities with funded community partners
- Communicate impact through social sharing and personal conversations
- Monitor and engage in advocacy activities around youth homelessness and LGBTQ related issues
- Make collective funding decisions for nonprofit partners when there is an open request for proposals
- Participate in committee meetings and an annual planning meeting with United Way staff
- Support membership retention and growth by developing and tracking goals

