



## A STABLE PLACE TO CALL HOME OPENS DOORS

Four years ago, Clifton, a Minneapolis resident, was experiencing homelessness. He came across Avenues for Youth, a shelter for youth ages 16-24. They referred him to YouthLink, a nonprofit partner that receives funding and resources from Greater Twin Cities United Way and its supporters.

“That experience changed me to the point of realizing that help is okay and asking questions is not wrong. Not being the smartest and not knowing everything is a part of being a young adult growing up in Minneapolis. There’s a lot of distinctive things that will distract you from being who you are.”

Now, Clifton holds a board position with the on Voices of Youth Advisory Council. He motivates others by encouraging them to speak up, share their stories, and welcome support.

Reflecting on his own experiences, Clifton tells every youth he encounters, “Don’t be scared of taking that next step, because without that next step, you don’t know what’s after that next step.”

**“When I found as stable place to call home, it gave me the opportunity to define success for myself.”**

Greater Twin Cities United Way works with nonprofit partners, advocates and resource centers to support individuals like Clifton find pathways to stable housing and a place to call home.