



## **BROOKLYN AVENUES**

*Brooklyn Avenues is a 12-bed shelter and transitional housing program for homeless youth located in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. It opened on February 6, 2015 and is the result of a broad community effort involving local government, the faith community, civic organizations, individual citizens, businesses and nonprofit organizations. That group recognized a critical, growing need and set out to create a safe place in its community to support area youth who are experiencing homelessness. Avenues for Homeless Youth is honored to be the community's nonprofit partner.*

### **Who will be supported at Brooklyn Avenues (BA)?**

Youth ages 16 through 20 who are experiencing homelessness in the northwest suburbs of Hennepin County are eligible to receive support from Brooklyn Avenues.

### **What is the referral process / how do youth come to BA?**

There are many avenues to Brooklyn Avenues. Youth will be referred by school counselors, police, street and school outreach workers and numerous other nonprofit and public partners, including faith-based organizations. Youth may also call Brooklyn Avenues themselves to inquire about available beds.

### **How long can the youth stay?**

Youth essentially may stay as long as it takes them to stabilize and begin working toward a thriving young adulthood. We anticipate the average stay will be 3 to 4 months, although some will stay shorter and others will stay longer periods. The maximum stay is 18 months or age 21, whichever comes first. Our goal is to allow youth to breathe and take full advantage of the program's services and support.

### **What programming / support do the youth receive at BA?**

Brooklyn Avenues provides safe and stable housing with 24-hour care and supervision by professional staff. Each youth will have a private bedroom with twin bed, desk and armoire. Bathrooms are shared. Basic needs are provided, including meals per day, personal hygiene supplies, laundry facilities, clothing, and transportation assistance. Other immediate needs are met, as needed, such as health and legal issues.

Supportive services provided by our staff and community partners guide youth through setting and pursuing goals for their futures. These include family reunification and family counseling, education support, employment and job training support, nursing and mental health consultations and referrals, independent living skills training and practice, long-term housing search support, empowerment, youth engagement and social activities.

### **How can community members get involved?**

We welcome community involvement through volunteerism and donations! Information is available through our website – [www.avenuesforyouth.org](http://www.avenuesforyouth.org) / How You Can Make a Difference. Contact Melissa Peterson at [mpeterson@avenuesforyouth.org](mailto:mpeterson@avenuesforyouth.org) or 612.522.1690 ext. 105.