

Larkin Street Youth Services – 25th Anniversary

2009 – 25 Years, 25 Reasons to Celebrate



Reason #1

Over the past 25 years, Larkin Street has grown to become a critical safety net for homeless youth in San Francisco. The agency has developed a nationally recognized model for treating youth homelessness encompassing 25 programs scattered across 13 different sites that are achieving exceptional results and influencing the policy and practices that impact youth homelessness on a scale that extends well beyond San Francisco.

Reason #2

In 2008, Larkin Street kept homeless youth off of San Francisco's streets for 79,314 nights.

Reason #3

In 1984, Senator Dianne Feinstein advocated for critical city funds (twice) to allow Larkin Street to continue operating at a critical point in the organization's history.

Reason #4

Over the past 25 years, Larkin Street has touched the lives of over 70,000 homeless and at risk youth - more than enough to fill up Candlestick Park.

Reason #5

85% of all funds raised by Larkin Street go directly to its programs for youth.

Reason #6

In 1981, Old First Presbyterian Church formed the Polk Street Outreach Committee to address the needs of homeless youth living on the streets of San Francisco, forming the origins of Larkin Street Youth Services.

Reason #7

89% of Larkin Street's youth say they are "happy with the services that I get at Larkin Street" and 85% say "they feel welcomed at Larkin Street."

Reason #8

Larkin Street pioneered some of the country's first street-based HIV education, prevention and housing programs for youth which are now best practice models around the world.

Reason #9

91% of former foster care youth served in Larkin Street's housing programs find stable housing situations.

Reason #10

Last year, 138 youth re-engaged in education through Larkin Street's on-site school.

Reason #11

The Bay Area CFO of the Year Awards, launched in 2006, has raised over one million dollars for Larkin Street's programs.

Reason #12

Over 1,000 youth improved their educational skills and employment prospects through Larkin Street's HIRE UP program.

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Reason #13

In 2008, over 60% of San Francisco's estimated 5,700 homeless and in-transition youth were served by Larkin Street Youth Services.

Reason #14

Last year, more than 2000 individual donors contributed over 2.5 million dollars in private funding supporting Larkin Street's youth programs.

Reason #15

With the help of the community, Larkin Street raised over 3.7 million dollars in public and private funds to rebuild the Diamond Youth Shelter and construction on the new shelter began in October 2008.

Reason #16

Volunteers at Larkin Street contributed over 18,000 hours to the agency in 2008.

Reason #17

Since 1999, 500 companies have contributed over 5.5 million dollars to Larkin Street.

Reason #18

Larkin Street's LEASE Program is the leading service provider of comprehensive housing and supportive services to former foster care youth in San Francisco.

Reason #19

Last year, over 133,000 warm and delicious meals were served to Larkin Street youth.

Reason #20

Larkin Street's Castro Youth Housing Initiative was one of the first and only housing programs in the nation helping LGBTQ youth.

Reason #21

Larkin Street's annual Paving the Way Gala, now in its seven year, has raised over \$2.5 million dollars for our youth.

Reason #22

Larkin Street's art program, a part of the continuum since the beginning, provided 550 performing and visual art workshops last year.

Reason #23

74% of youth who complete Larkin Street's comprehensive programs exit street life.

Reason #24

Larkin Street has 50 volunteer Board and Honorary Board members, 150 staff and hundreds of other volunteers who all pitch in and actively help carry out all aspects of the organization's mission.

Reason #25

With the support of the community, funders, volunteers, staff, board and advocates, Larkin Street looks forward to 25 more years of helping kids get off the street for good.