



Beacon

INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Beacon housing builds futures

Beacon believes every young adult deserves a stable home and a strong start. 66 West Apartments—the first housing for young adults in suburban Hennepin County—will be home for 39 young people pursuing education and career goals. Our housing will provide a haven of support for young people who haven't had the advantages of some of their peers.

Though it's usually not obvious, there are youth in the suburbs without a home. Many are good at "hiding in plain sight" - in other words, they go to school, to their jobs, do their homework at the library or the mall food court without anyone realizing they are homeless.



Local youth service providers and schools estimate that although it's not obvious, about 250 youth experience homelessness in our southwest suburban Hennepin communities each year.

We believe in home.

Contact us • www.beaconinterfaith.org • phone 651-789-6260 • Twitter: @BelieveInHome

66 West Apartments: Supportive housing for suburban youth

Beacon plans to build 39 apartments for youth and young adults on West 66th Street in Edina. This location near Southdale Center and Fairview Southdale Hospital is ideal for youth housing - it's close to hundreds of jobs in the area, with excellent access to public transportation.

The tenants will be primarily young adults (18-22 years old) from the southwestern suburbs of Hennepin County who have experienced homelessness. We'll provide on-site professional support as they transition from homelessness to stable housing - and as they work toward their educational, career and personal goals. The building will be professionally managed, ensuring tenants' security and attention to neighborhood needs.

To create 66 West requires the investment of significant public and private resources to build and to provide the ongoing services that will allow these young adults to thrive, not just survive.



66 West will be home to 39 youth and young adults from the southwestern suburbs who have experienced homelessness.

Pictured: A preliminary architect's sketch.



"We are thrilled to create housing in this central location of Edina. Residents will be steps from job opportunities, multiple bus lines, and community resources such as the public library and the YMCA. We are excited to add to the growing community that is this bustling, forward-thinking neighborhood."

- Lauren Morse-Wendt, mission and ministry developer at Edina Community Lutheran Church (ECLC), 66 West lead congregational partner with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

"Youth homelessness is increasing in Minnesota and suburban communities are not excluded from this problem. Many children within our own neighborhoods need our help. We have the means and the know-how - it is time to step up!"

- State Senator Melisa Franzen, District 49

Supportive housing ends homelessness

Beacon has experience creating successful supportive housing. The young adults in our Nicollet Square housing are thriving thanks to the combination of on-site support from professional, caring adults who listen and guide.



Garlicia is enrolled in college and works part-time in retail. She said Nicollet Square "felt like home" from day one thanks to the strong support of staff and the community support from volunteers and other tenants.



Ashley completed an internship at Butter Bakery, where she learned about sustainable and organic sourcing along with other aspects of the restaurant business.



Rich just moved into his own apartment after 3 years at Nicollet Square. There he has worked steadily, repaid almost half of his college loan debt, recently secured a full-time job and plans to re-enroll in college soon to study business and real estate.



Tenants work closely with staff who help them stick to their goals, process difficult concerns or issues and plan their future.

Education is the key to success for young adults

The average dropout can expect to earn an annual income of \$20,241, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's a full \$10,386 less than the typical high school graduate, and \$36,424 less than someone with a bachelor's degree.

Supportive housing is a wise public investment

According to a 2012 Wilder Foundation study, supportive housing returns \$1.44 to taxpayers for every public dollar invested. Stable, supportive housing allows formerly homeless youth to attain a higher level of education and increase their earnings.

Why Beacon?



Beacon's Minneapolis youth housing, Nicollet Square, is home to 42 young adults, 95 percent of whom are working, and 42 percent of whom are enrolled in post-secondary education.

Our housing is a win-win for tenants, communities

Beacon is an experienced housing developer in the nonprofit sector. We are also one of the largest supportive housing providers in the area and all our housing is professionally managed. Our housing is created by the region's best design, engineering and construction professionals, with input from our congregational and community partners. Our unique model is to partner with a collaborative of congregations committed to ending homelessness, such as Edina Community Lutheran Church, our partner at 66 West. Congregations bring the passion to end homelessness, plus resources - whether financial contributions, land or community engagement - to create housing in their communities.

You can help build housing for homeless youth

Educate: Tour Nicollet Square to see how supportive housing for youth works. Bring a friend. See scheduled dates on our calendar at www.beaconinterfaith.org/events or call to arrange a tour for you and your guests, 651-789-6260 x200.

Advocate: Ask your neighbors to join you in supporting this housing for your community's young adults. Check our website to find out how you can get involved: www.beaconinterfaith.org/YouthHousing

Donate: Invest in youth by supporting Beacon's work to create supportive housing for them. Go to www.beaconinterfaith.org/give