

Larkin Street Youth Services: Overview

Background & Key Facts

- Larkin Street Youth Services was founded in 1984 as a neighborhood effort to help San Francisco's most vulnerable youth – homeless and runaway ages 12-24 – in the Tenderloin and Polk Gulch areas of San Francisco and has served over 70,000 youth since we opened.
- Larkin Street's programs address the immediate needs youth have for housing, food and safety, while also encouraging their participation in essential support services that offer the skills and resources needed to help them reach their full potential and keep them off the streets for good.
- **Today, Larkin Street is an internationally recognized leader providing innovative, effective housing, medical, social and educational services to at-risk homeless and runaway youth ages 12-24 across 25 programs and 13 sites throughout San Francisco. Eighty-four percent of Larkin Street's funding goes directly to the programs.**

Program Highlights

- Larkin Street's Assisted Care program was the nation's first licensed residential care center for HIV positive youth between the ages of 18-25.
- The Lark-Inn for Youth is the only emergency shelter in San Francisco for youth ages 18-24.
- Larkin Street is the leading service provider of comprehensive housing and supportive services to former foster care youth in San Francisco through the LEASE program.
- The Castro Youth Housing Initiative is one of the first and only housing programs in the nation for LGBTQ youth.
- Routz is an innovative housing and intensive support program for youth with severe mental health issues.

Current Outlook: Youth on the Streets

- It is estimated that each year 1.6 million youth, or 7.6% of the youth population, are homeless in the United States.
- **In San Francisco alone, an estimated 5,700 youth are homeless and/or marginally housed annually.**
- Of Larkin Street's clients:
 - Many have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused.
 - Nearly half cannot return home.
 - Many suffer from poor health, mental health issues and substance use issues.

Our Results: Keeping Youth Off the Street

- **In 2009, Larkin Street engaged over 3,600 homeless and runaway youth in services and Larkin Street's housing programs kept youth off the streets for 86,064 nights.**
- 111 Hire Up program clients found jobs at an average hourly wage of \$10.82.
- 113 youth re-engaged in education by enrolling at Larkin Street's on-site high school.
- Last year, Larkin Street helped 96 formerly homeless kids to enroll in post-secondary education including San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco, Golden Gate University, Los Angeles City College, Portland State University and Heald College.
- **Last year, 80% of youth who completed Larkin Street's comprehensive programs exited street life.**

Recent Larkin Street Awards

- *San Francisco Business Times* "Bay Area's Most Admired CEO Award", Sherilyn Adams
- SF LGBT Pride Celebration Committee's "Pride Heritage Award"
- *San Francisco Business Times* "Most Influential Women in Business Award", Sherilyn Adams
- Lewis Hine Award "Outstanding Service to Youth", Sherilyn Adams
- San Francisco 49ers' "Perry/Yonamine Unity Award"
- San Francisco Mental Health Board's "Exceptional Programs and People"
- National Foster Care Parents' "National Foster Care Month: Change a Lifetime Award"
- National Network for Youth's "Agency of the Year"
- Johnson & Johnson's "Community Healthcare Award"
- Association for Corporate Growth's "Emerging Non-Profit of the Year"
- National Youth Employment Coalition's "PEPNet Award"
- Winner of J.P. Morgan Chase "Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development"
- Winner of the Met Life "Awards for Excellence in Supportive Housing"