



RESPONDING

to our community's needs

2019 REPORT TO
THE COMMUNITY

Keystone
COMMUNITY SERVICES



The needs in our community are constantly changing, along with neighborhood demographics, volunteer resources, funding support for nonprofits and so much more.

For 80 years, Keystone has been able to evolve and respond to changing times thanks to people like you. You care about your community. You want all young people to have opportunities that prepare them for successful futures. You believe seniors have the right to age with dignity. You are committed to ensuring all people have equitable access to vital supports so they can lead stable and successful lives.

Help Keystone continue responding to your neighbors. Thank you for your generous support!

Mary McKeown
President

Julie Novak
Chair, Board of Directors

MISSION

The mission of Keystone Community Services is to strengthen the capacity of individuals and families to improve their quality of life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HAVE YOU WONDERED?



Where do **FAMILIES** in my neighborhood go when they need help?



What can I do to help my **ELDERLY NEIGHBORS** feel less isolated?



How can I help **YOUTH** in my community be successful?



How can I **INVEST MY TIME OR RESOURCES** to truly make a difference?

KEYSTONE RESPONDS BY SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS EVERY DAY.

In 2018, **YOUR INVESTMENT** in Keystone supported **32,677 neighbors**.

This report outlines key issues in our community and Keystone's response.

Your generous support makes it possible for Keystone to respond to the needs in our community. For more information, our 2018 Annual Report is at [keystoneservices.org](https://www.keystoneservices.org)



SENIORS

In our community, 12% of St. Paul residents are over 65 and 30% of older adult households in Ramsey County have an annual income of less than \$25,000. Aging in community remains a primary value among older adults.

KEYSTONE'S RESPONSE:

Keystone offers a robust array of services designed to support seniors so they can live in the community with dignity and self-determination. 92% of Keystone seniors qualify as low-income.



MEET EUNICE

Eunice, 82, and her 94-year-old sister have lived near West 7th Community Center all their lives. **FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS, EUNICE HAS BEEN WALKING TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO PARTICIPATE IN KEYSTONE'S SENIOR PROGRAMS.** She originally got involved in the exercise classes to help manage her diabetes. The yoga, aerobics and dance classes are some of her favorite activities, helping her stay active and healthy. She also enjoys Bingo games and Keystone holiday parties. "Those parties are fun, and it's nice to see friends there," she says.



26,710

smiles and Meals on Wheels delivered



1,632

activities offered to keep older adults engaged

"There are a few ladies I really enjoy seeing when I come to the Keystone senior programs. It's nice to get out and the community center helps me stay engaged."

– Eunice

Lersay, 19, applied for a job as a Teen Tutor with Keystone to help kids from immigrant families like her own. As it turned out, the job also taught her a lot about herself.

HER THREE YEARS AS A TUTOR HAVE HELPED HER

IDENTIFY A CAREER PATH. This fall, she is off to college on a full scholarship to study social work. "This job taught me that I like working with people," she says. "I can do a lot with a social work degree and I want to help families like mine, who immigrated and are settling into a new environment."

MEET LERSAY



346

youth regularly participated in programs that help them learn and grow



7,314

hours teens spent gaining work readiness skills through training and paid job experiences

“I look forward to coming to Keystone’s Roseville food shelf. I even started volunteering here because I know how it is to struggle and I want to help however I can.”

– LaShonda



MEET LASHONDA

A few years back, when LaShonda was busy working two jobs, she figured out ways to stretch her dollars. She made a budget. She froze food so nothing went to waste. Those strategies are still helpful, but making ends meet is much harder now that she relies on disability and SNAP benefits. **ONE**

THING THAT REALLY HELPS IS KEYSTONE’S FOOD SHELF.

“I’m on a strict diet due to my health and the produce at the food shelf is the most important thing to me,” LaShonda explains. “I eat a lot of produce and it’s not cheap at the store so I get as much as I can.”

YOUTH

In our community, unemployment rates for adults are at historic lows, yet 16% of Twin Cities youth looking for work are unemployed. Additionally, significant employment disparities exist for people of color. One of the best predictors of successful employment in adulthood is being employed as a teen.

KEYSTONE’S RESPONSE: Keystone’s youth programs help young people develop the tools they need to become successful adults – academic skills, social skills and early employment skills. 84% of youth participants identify as people of color.

“I love being a Teen Tutor at Keystone and this job has given me so many skills that prepare me for my future. I am so lucky this was my first job.”

– Lersay

BASIC NEEDS

In our community, 39% of households earning less than the median income paid over half of their monthly income for their housing alone. Across Ramsey County, this means more people need to stretch their monthly budgets, often by using food shelves. Since April 2018, Keystone has experienced a 25% increase in individuals using our food shelves.

KEYSTONE’S RESPONSE: Keystone offered food shelf support to more than 26,000 people in 2018. Not only does Keystone offer families access to healthy food, we also provide other supportive services to keep families on their path to stability. 24% of food shelf participants live in suburban Ramsey County.



2.3

million pounds of healthy food distributed



\$114,007

in crisis funds distributed to help families through emergencies, predominately housing related



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