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SUMMER 2025



Journeys

LEADING THE WAY TO HOPE



TUBMAN'S PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS ARE LEADING THE WAY TO HOPE

Follow Tubman clients accessing services on their journeys to safety, hope, and healing.
See pages 4-5.

GET HELP: 612-825-0000

TUBMAN.ORG

GIVE HELP: 612-825-3333



Hope in Action



by Jennifer J. Polzin
Tubman CEO

If I've ever had a conversation with you about the work we get to do at Tubman, you've probably heard me say how fortunate I am to get a front row seat to hope every single day.

I'm usually referring to how the people we serve in their most scary, life-threatening, heartbreaking, trauma-filled, messiest moments do the incredibly hard work of moving forward—sometimes slow and steady, sometimes in fits and starts, occasionally by taking one big leap, but rarely on a smooth trajectory. Bearing witness to the sheer magnitude of change survivors create for themselves and their families with the support, resources, and expertise that Tubman can provide fuels our team's sense of purpose, something that not everyone gets to experience in their work.

When I talk about hope, I'm not talking about wishful thinking or denying the horrific realities of what's happening all around us or waiting to be rescued by some savior. I am talking about active hope, a term coined by Joanna Macy. Active hope is what aligns us in action to make things better.

At this year's Starlight Soirée (see page 3), we talked about the very real risks to Tubman's funding and the impact cuts will have on the people we serve (page 6). The love, energy, and generosity in that room was absolutely astounding! You stood with and stood up for survivors...and you gave me hope. Afterward, many of you shared that sense of community and collective action was exactly what you needed too.

At Tubman, we are not backing off from our equity, inclusion, diversity, access, and belonging work. We serve in the name of the abolitionist Harriet Tubman, and our very mission is to create change so that every person can experience safety, hope, and healing. Tubman's Board of Directors has unanimously voted to uphold our values by agreeing that we will not sign any grant agreements that would limit who we serve—even with funds from other sources—based on gender identity or immigration status. I am, however, keenly aware that active hope isn't without risk.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of MN Speaker of the House Melissa and Mark Hortman and their beloved dog Gilbert, who were murdered in their home in an act of politically motivated violence and to MN Senator John, Yvette, and Hope Hoffman on their long road to recovery. I am incredibly grateful for all our elected leaders who work tirelessly to serve the greater good each and every day.

To be clear: the issues we advocate for are bipartisan, and I am very proud of the relationships we've built with elected officials on both sides of the aisle. The people we serve and our supporters all have a range of beliefs, yet one thing we can all agree on is that every human being deserves safety, and policies that include such drastic cuts threaten our ability to serve the people who need us most.

In the pages ahead, you can follow the journeys of a just few of the thousands of people we serve and the different services that your support makes possible (pages 4-5) as well as learn what's new in our programs (page 6).

I'm thrilled to share that we are about to cross the finish line of our three-year Great Dreams Campaign (page 7)! The new elevator is done, new windows should arrive in September, and construction began right after the Fourth of July on two new restrooms, additional fire sprinkling, and Harriet's Haven for Pets. My deepest gratitude to every one of you, whether you are a longtime supporter or one of the 1,200 new donors to Tubman, who has invested in our long-term sustainability by making our great dreams come to life.

Whether you are a survivor, volunteer, donor, partner organization, team member, or some combination of these, thank you for being part of the Tubman community. We are so much stronger together.

As always, you have a standing invitation to contact me anytime at jjpolzin@tubman.org or 612-767-6697. I'd love to listen and learn what inspires you to support Tubman, what we're doing well, and where we can do better.

In gratitude, hope, and action,

CELEBRATING TUBMAN'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION WORK



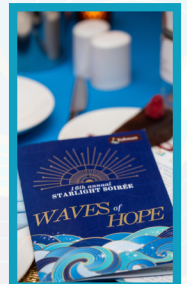
The start of summer has been filled with so many events and celebrations, including Tubman honoring **Juneteenth** and **Pride**. Throughout the year, Tubman continues our work supporting the LGBTQ+ community, working to break down microaggressions, and more!

In addition to Tubman's summer celebrations, our commitment to equity extends to the work we do with our own team and in the community. In January, Roxy's Cabaret in Minneapolis hosted Tubman during one of their Charity Drag Bingo nights. At the February All-Staff meeting, DEI consultant and trainer Seena Hodges presented a workshop to Tubman staff, volunteers, and interns on how to move past just recognizing microaggressions to becoming accomplices of racial equity. The Gay 90's in Minneapolis hosted our annual Drag Show Benefit in March to support Tubman's LGBTQIA+ youth services and safe spaces at a time when news of protections for queer people were beginning to be stripped. Tubman's April All-Staff meeting opened with Trina Olson having staff go deeper into assumptions about the LGBTQIA+ community, privilege, and how to advocate for communities you may not belong to; and in June, we celebrated Pride Month and Juneteenth at community-based events throughout the Twin Cities, including Twin Cities Pride with Day One, and the annual NorthStar Youth Outreach Center Juneteenth celebration. We look forward to continuing our work with our staff, communities, and the people we serve, this year, and for many years to come!

Starlight Soirée Celebrating Waves of Hope

Filled with joy and solidarity, we celebrated our mission of safety, hope, and healing on May 2 at Tubman's annual Starlight Soirée at the Radisson Blu, Mall of America. Hosted by our wonderful emcee Chanda Smith Baker, the program included a performance from Titambe African Drum and Dance Ensemble, surprise guest speaker and long-time Tubman supporter Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, the inclusion of survivors' voices, and a fireside chat with Tubman CEO, Jen Polzin, discussing the the state of the agency and our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are so grateful for the many sponsors, volunteers, and guests who invested their time, resources, and commitment to support the many clients and communities Tubman serves every year, creating waves of hope for what's to come! We hope you'll join us next year as we **celebrate Tubman's 50th anniversary at the Starlight Soirée on Friday, April 24, 2026, at Marriott City Center in Minneapolis.**

SAVE THE DATE!



Pathways to Hope

The Many Ways People Find Support at Tubman

A Tubman client, on average, uses about 3.5 services once connected to Tubman. From our emergency shelter to counseling, to legal help, and transitional housing, there are many ways an individual or family can become connected. Here is a representation of what someone's journey with Tubman's programs and services can look like, and the ways they interact with other members of the community on their path to hope.

Learn more about Tubman's programs at tubman.org/get-help.

After her divorce, **Marie** needed to reenter the workforce, as her ex-husband controlled all the finances. Amanda, with whom she attended **Pieces of Peace**, mentioned there was a workshop coming up around **financial planning and job searching**. At the workshop, Marie was able to meet with a volunteer who helped her start a new resumé.



This is Amanda. Amanda first connected with Tubman through the **24/7 Resource & Crisis line** where they sought options for support groups after leaving an unsafe living situation. After attending the **Pieces of Peace** support group a few times, Amanda was connected with a Tubman Legal Advocate to obtain an **Order for Protection**.



What Real Tubman Clients Have to Say

To say that Tubman has been a blessing isn't even enough...On the days when it felt harder, I knew I wasn't going through my situation alone. Tubman has given me confidence and strength I didn't know I had. I will always be grateful that they were able to help me.

The intentionality and openness that Tubman therapists bring to their work created such a supportive environment for me to feel safe enough to explore what is going on with me and what changes are possible for me.

Safety today is being able to walk in and out of my apartment without being harassed. Not having to be afraid of being in contact with someone who is going to berate me and worrying about going home...What I have is mine and it is not owed to someone else. I'm not indebted to someone. I feel I can lock my door and know my home is safe.

Pathways to Hope

Jenna's dad volunteers at Tubman facilitating **financial workshops**. At school, a Youth Educator with Tubman's **Voices in Prevention** program came to her Health class to begin a six-week course on healthy relationships. After class, Jenna asked if she could join the **Movement for Violence Prevention Youth Leadership Group** so she could share what she learned with her Girl Scout troop.



When **Derrek** was younger, his family spent six months at Tubman's **shelter**. During that time, Derrek met with an **onsite therapist** to help him understand what was happening. After his family left shelter, Derrek participated in the **Inspiring Youth** program and his family continued **therapy at Tubman Chrysalis Center**. In college, Derrek applied to become an intern answering the **24/7 Resource & Crisis Line**.



CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO TUBMAN TODAY:



Scan the code to donate online.

*Tubman is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please consult with your tax advisor.

WAYS YOUR GIFT CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

As the demand for services increases, so does the cost of providing them. Below is the unsubsidized average cost of services:

- **\$150** covers the cost for changing locks so a family can feel secure in their home
- **\$350** pays the cost for storage so a family can keep their belongings protected during transition
- **\$600** provides monthly transportation costs to medical appointments, school, job interviews and work
- **\$750** covers the cost of filing an Order for Protection against abuse
- **\$1,500** assists with the cost of a security deposit and first month's rent in a safe new home

Learn more about ways to support Tubman's programs at tubman.org/give-help.

Federal Funding Updates & Future Impact

Approximately \$3.9 million—nearly 29%—of Tubman’s annual operating budget are grants and contracts for service that originate at the federal level.

As of this writing, we have not yet experienced cuts to our federal funding contracts. However, cuts are probable and could come at any time. As we brace for the worst case scenario, we are grateful to our generous supporters who have helped establish our Survivor Contingency Fund. This fund won’t replace the total dollars, but will provide a longer runway so that we can make the cuts more gradually in order to minimize the disruption for clients who are currently being served.

Below are examples of the anticipated impacts of the pending federal funding crisis.

Housing

We would have to stop accepting new applicants into our community-based rapid rehousing programs and would face a devastating shortfall in rental assistance for currently enrolled clients over the following two years.

Shelter

The number of emergency domestic violence shelter beds would be reduced from 90 to 65 at Harriet Tubman Shelter, leaving an enormous hole in the statewide ecosystem.

Legal Services

One-third fewer clients would receive pro-bono attorney representation in Orders for Protection and family law cases, with a projection of 300 fewer victims receiving legal protection.

In-school Violence Prevention

At least 1,200 middle and high school students would not receive in-school violence prevention education on healthy relationships, how to recognize dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking, and be left without resources for themselves or a friend.

Program Highlights

Better Access for and Connection with the Community

YOUTH SERVICES

With a focus on **strengthening community connections**, Tubman mentored young women as a guest at an **International Women’s Day event hosted by Youth Frontiers**; participated in the Heading Home Ramsey Youth Advisory Board 2025 conference designed to **amplify the lived experiences of youth and young adults**; as well as hosted the Ramsey County Youth Advisory Board for a listening session on civic engagement and legislative action. Over the past year, the **NorthStar Youth Outreach Center at Maplewood Mall has expanded its hours** and now **serves 3 times as many visitors every month**. Fundraising continues to renovate and connect our two storefronts.

Summer at Harriet Tubman Shelter began with a **bike safety seminar on the importance of wearing a helmet from the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance**. Thanks to a generous donation, we were also able to raffle off bicycles for children and youth. Based on client feedback, **Creatives After Curfew** is working on a mural installation on the playground that will be installed later this summer. We also held our annual Underground Railroad experience on Harriet Tubman Day, March 10. The **Maplewood Police Department’s LGBTQ+ Liaison** also came to speak about their role and how to connect with LGBTQ+ youth in the community, with youth in shelter and Safe Journeys Youth Transitional Housing.

SHELTER SERVICES

LEGAL SERVICES

Tubman’s Legal Services Team continues to serve as a vital resource for cities, counties, and Tubman clients. The team also **led two client focus groups** to get feedback from our clients on their experiences working with Tubman. Legal staff participated in **10 outreach meetings with community systems partners**, and provided training to law enforcement partners in five police departments. The Legal team currently has the **highest number of volunteers and interns**, expanding capacity in a way to serve clients more holistically.

Continuing to minimize barriers for clients while increasing the community’s understanding of Tubman’s counseling and therapy services, the Clinical team has been active in lifting up opportunities regarding **legislative action and the impact on Tubman clients** and the broader community. In response to feedback about community needs, new groups were created: **Sacred Surrender**, **Chronic Health Conditions Group**; and a **Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue process group** is in development.

CLINICAL SERVICES

HOUSING SERVICES

Tubman’s Housing programs continue to support survivors with **financial assistance, support services, and long-term stability**, despite recent Executive Orders designed to destabilize progress for families. **On-site transitional housing and community-based rapid rehousing programs remain at capacity**.

The Central Access Team is part of the **agency-wide effort to minimize barriers and create easier access** to Tubman services. With **two additional new full-time staff and 9 interns and volunteers**, we have been able to **extend coverage of our resource line to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and until 4 p.m. on Fridays**. Next up, we plan to add access via a text line and enhanced training for all Tubman staff on providing seamless connections to internal and community resources.

CENTRAL ACCESS TEAM

Great Dreams

Capacity Campaign

Great Dreams in Action:

Construction Progress & New Spaces at Harriet Tubman Center East

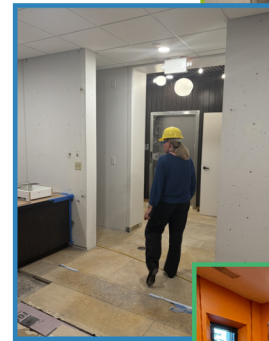
As we near the finish line for the Great Dreams Campaign, we're thrilled to share a behind-the-scenes look at how your support is transforming Harriet Tubman Center East into a safer, more welcoming, and more accessible space for the thousands of people we serve each year.

Construction crews have been hard at work—and the progress is inspiring. From improved safety features to long-awaited upgrades, these changes will make a difference in how survivors and families experience hope, healing, and a path forward.

Key Highlights:

- **Lobby Transformation:** Our front entrance and reception area are being completely reimagined to enhance both security and dignity. A new welcome desk and redesigned waiting area will provide a more calming environment for everyone who walks through our doors.
- **Elevator Installation:** The community-facing side of Tubman East will have a new elevator, dramatically improving access for clients with mobility needs and making all floors of the building usable for community members, clients and staff.
- **Harriet's Haven for Pets:** A new on-site pet shelter will mean that survivors no longer have to choose between safety and leaving a beloved pet behind. Harriet's Haven will allow clients to bring their pets with them—supporting healing and reducing barriers to seeking help. Construction on Harriet's Haven has begun with an expected opening date in late 2025.
- **System Upgrades:** We've also invested in critical building infrastructure, including electrical wiring and fire safety systems, to ensure long-term reliability and comfort.

These improvements are more than physical—they're foundational to fulfilling Tubman's mission of supporting people as they move from fear to freedom. Thanks to the generosity of our campaign donors and community champions, we're making dreams a reality—brick by brick.



Top: A view of the new public elevator vestibule under construction.

Middle: Jen Polzin on a walkthrough of the construction of the elevator on the ground floor

Bottom: The almost finished vestibule on the second floor.



Use the QR code to help support the Great Dreams Campaign cross the finish line!

STAY TUNED!

Tubman will host a special donor open house at Harriet Tubman East in Maplewood later this Fall to unveil the transformed space and celebrate what we've built together!

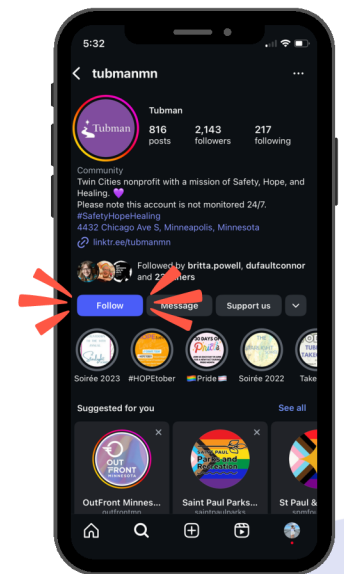
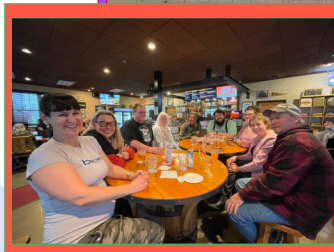
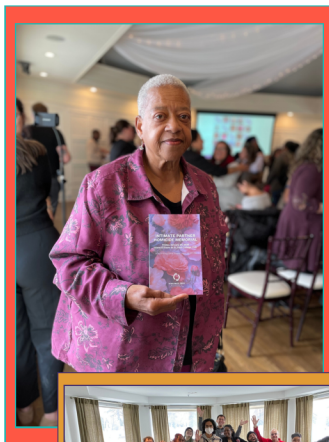


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