



February 2010

TLP e-newsletter

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Get Involved

Want to attend one of the meetings or events below? Please contact [Emily Krisciunas](#) for more information!

[Community Meeting](#)

Celebrate Ms. Roxie's 25-year anniversary with TLP and welcome new executive director Jeri Linas on **Thursday, February 18th at 5:00 p.m. at Belfort House**

[Gala Committee Meeting](#)

Help plan TLP's annual black-tie Gala. Next meeting is **Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.**

[Bowling with TLP Youth](#)

Join TLP's Auxiliary Board for an evening of bowling with TLP youth. **Tuesday, February 23 at 5:30 p.m. at Waveland Bowl.**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Emily,

In this issue: read a note from our [new executive director](#); share the excitement of [TLP's \\$125k win in the Chase Campaign](#); get ready for our annual [Dream a Bigger Dream Gala](#) next month; watch a [slideshow from our youth holiday party](#); read about [Christina's graduation](#); and save the date for an [upcoming fundraising event](#).

From the Executive Director's Desk

By Jeri Linas

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to write to you today as TLP's new Executive Director. TLP's community is made of vibrant and committed people, and I am honored to join their efforts to create hope and opportunity for Chicago youth who are homeless.

As I begin this next chapter, it feels a bit like "coming home"--having spent the past few years doing national work, I am again working in my own city striving to improve the lives of some of Chicago's most vulnerable people.

Chicago is very fortunate to have an organization like TLP to call its own, and I am honored to be a part of it. With this opportunity also comes great responsibility--to the TLP community; our supporters, partners and especially the youth we serve. I pledge to serve TLP proudly, respecting its past, supporting its mission, and creating opportunities to achieve its vision for the future.

To that end, I have already begun reaching out to current and potential stakeholders. I invite and encourage all of you to reach out to me directly at jlinas@teenliving.org. Finally, I hope you will join me at our next community meeting [this Thursday, February 18](#), at Belfort House! (To RSVP, contact Emily Krisciunas at emilyk@teenliving.org.)

Warmly,

Jeri Linas

Youth Graduates into Independent Living

After two years at Belfort House, Christina enters CaSSA

On January 20, friends, volunteers and TLP staff members came together at Belfort House ready to celebrate, and Christina, a client at TLP, was the guest of honor. After two years in TLP's Belfort House program, Christina's persistence, dedication and exuberant attitude has paid off.

That evening, everyone showed their support as Christina graduated from the [Belfort House](#) program into TLP's independent living program, [CaSSA](#). Aside from completing the Belfort House program, Christina was the first TLP client to be selected for and complete a professional internship



through Project Youth Works at Accenture. After the three-month internship concluded, Accenture employees who worked directly with Christina had nothing but positive things to say about her great attitude and work ethic.

Christina says that her biggest goal now is to eventually land her all-time dream job as a hairstylist for celebrities. Her dream is beginning to come to fruition, since she recently won a \$500 scholarship from the Chicago Police Department's Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) to help her attend barber/cosmetology school.

Congratulations Christina!

Annual Black-tie Gala Weeks Away

2010 Dream a Bigger Dream Gala Hopes to Set Records

It's almost that time of the year again, and you won't want to miss this incredible evening of food, fun, and philanthropy as more than 500 friends come together in support of Teen Living Programs.

We hope that you can join us on March 6 for the *Dream a*

Bigger Dream Gala at Fairmont Chicago's Imperial Ballroom. This year's event will feature **Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez** as TLP's Community Advocate and Keynote Speaker, and music by **the Gentlemen of Leisure**.



Incredible auction items will be up for bidding including: a visit to the set of *Desperate Housewives* and lunch with actor James Denton, tickets to the last season of the *Oprah Show*, and a "Chef for a Day" experience at Charlie Trotter's.

[Tickets for the event are \\$250 and sponsorships begin at \\$3,500.](#) For more information, please contact Emily Krisciunas at emilyk@teenliving.org.

Watch Slideshow of TLP Christmas 2009



On December 17th, youth and staff celebrated the holidays with their annual holiday party at Belfort House.

To view photos from this special evening, head over to [TLP's YouTube channel](#) to

watch a slideshow!

Thanks to the many generous supporters who purchased holiday gifts and much-needed toiletry items for TLP youth!

TLP Finishes Big in Facebook Contest

TLP awarded total of \$125K through Chase Giving Campaign

On January 22nd, Facebook polls closed and millions of its users waited to hear the results of the Chase Community Giving Campaign. The next morning, TLP Executive Director Jeri Linas received a call with incredible news -- Chase selected TLP to receive \$100,000!

TLP was one of only six charities, and the only Chicago organization, specially selected by the Chase Community Giving Advisory Board to receive \$100,000 -- bringing TLP's total Chase awards to \$125,000!



"Even though TLP finished in 63rd place after the second round of voting, the Advisory Board clearly saw something that stood out in TLP," Jeri said. "It was our ability to mobilize the Chicago community to come out and show their support -- in eight short days, we were able to rally the support of more than 4,000 virtual volunteers, an amazing accomplishment considering four months ago we had no social media presence."



The \$125,000 from the Chase campaign will ensure that TLP can continue to effectively and efficiently reach out to homeless youth all over Chicago.

Thanks again to our many virtual volunteers who helped make all this possible!

Meet TLP's New Executive Director

Veteran Chicago non-profit manager brought on as new leader.

After an exhaustive national search, Teen Living Programs is proud to welcome Geraldine "Jeri" Linas, a veteran Chicago non-profit manager, as TLP's new Executive Director. Jeri joins TLP after spending a long career in Chicago's social service, policy and philanthropic communities.

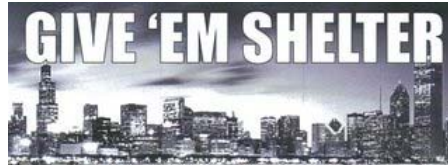
"Every day, TLP changes the life of another Chicago youth, who without TLP would have nowhere else to turn," Linas said. "I am absolutely honored to have been selected to serve TLP as its next Executive Director."

Most recently, Linas served as Program Director for the National Cosmetology's Association (NCA), spearheading opportunities for membership engagement in national campaigns which supported survivors of natural disasters, domestic violence and breast cancer .

Prior to joining NCA, Linas worked for 10 years as the Assistant Director of the Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence (MODV) after having served as founding member, Assistant Director and then Executive Director of Rainbow House/Arco Iris, a comprehensive social service and shelter agency serving battered women and their families in Chicago since its inception in 1982.

Welcome Jeri!

Save the Date



Chicago's real estate, design, furniture, and construction industries are gathering for an after-work cocktail event this spring, *Give 'Em Shelter*, to help combat youth homelessness in our city. Hosted by industry leaders, attendance is expected to top at 350.

Tuesday, April 13th, 2010, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

District Bar, 170 West Ontario Street

[Individual tickets are \\$50 in advance online](#) or (\$60 at the door) and include open bar and appetizers. Limited sponsorships still available. For more information email emilyk@teenliving.org.

Recent Gifts

Thank you to JPMorgan Chase, the United Airlines Foundation, and PricewaterhouseCoopers for your generous support of Teen Living Programs!

JPMorgan Chase awarded \$125,000 in support of TLP's [mission](#) of creating hope and opportunity for youth who are homeless.

The United Airlines Foundation awarded TLP a \$10,000 grant supporting our stable housing program which includes the Belfort House transitional living program, the CaSSA independent living program, and Supportive Services for these youth.

PricewaterhouseCoopers awarded a \$7,500 grant for our stable housing program, funding our three residential programs and supportive services.

Thank you all for your continued support of TLP!

Donate Now

Donations to Teen Living Programs are **tax-deductible as charitable contributions and can be made with a check, by a transfer of stock, or online with a credit card.**

Note: Online donations ARE eligible for Matching Gift Programs. Just mail TLP the paperwork and we'll take it from there.

Checks should be made payable to **Teen Living Programs** and can be mailed to:

Teen Living Programs
162 W. Hubbard
Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60654

or visit our [Website](#) to make a secure online donation.

Questions? Call [Nia Tavoularis](#), director of development, at 312-568-5700, ext. 228.

Thank you for your support!

www.teenliving.org

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