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To: niat@teenliving.org
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Teen Living Programs



December 2008

TLP e-newsletter

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Get Involved

Gift-Wrapping Party ***Dec. 16, 6 p.m.***

The holiday gift drive for TLP youth is in full gear, but these gifts need to be wrapped!

Please join other TLP volunteers and staff for a gift-wrapping party Dec. 16, 6 p.m., at TLP's administrative office.

Contact [Emily Krisciunas](#) for more information.

TLP Gala Committee Meeting ***Jan. 6, 6 p.m.***

Help us plan and ensure the success of our 2009 fundraiser!

Dear Nia,

We hope this holiday season finds you healthy, warm, and surrounded by those you love. Best wishes from TLP!

Executive Director's Update

[d1m summer 2006 color](#)

By [David L. Myers](#)



Fundraising isn't always about sending a check. Especially during the holidays, it's nice to share your favorite things with those who really need them--like knowing that the hat and scarf you picked out will soon keep a young person warm while she waits for the bus from school to work.

Of course, your [monetary contributions](#) are important, too, especially at the end of the year.

We know it has been a difficult year for everyone. We also understand there are many worthwhile organizations and hard choices to make about where to give.

Our donors feel confident giving to Teen Living Programs because we are efficient and effective with their contributions. With 32 years of experience helping youth, we know where the need is greatest, and we target resources wisely. We hold ourselves to the highest standards, committed to [sustained results](#), not quick fixes.

Below, you'll find five ideas for how you can easily help--ideas tailored to fit your level and style of giving. We hope we can count on your support.

Join us Jan. 6, 6 p.m., for our next committee meeting.

Contact
[Emily Krisciunas](#)
for more information.



Happy Holidays from all of us at TLP!

Youth News

Peer-to-Peer Outreach

"We are seeing wonderful things happen when TLP youth reach out to young people on the street," says Bina Rubinson, Street and Community Outreach Program Supervisor. "Youth who are homeless may feel vulnerable and are far more comfortable talking with someone their age, a colleague who truly understands what they are going through."

Peer Educator Picture 09



As part of TLP's peer outreach program, several TLP youth are hired and receive extensive training to become Peer Educators. They provide information, and in many cases, inspiration, to their peers who are homeless. The program educates and engages young

people who may not know where to turn for help. Together, with staff, Peer Educators reach up to 150 young people on Chicago streets each night.

These service ambassadors provide a critical link for TLP, and they are passionate about their work. "By reaching out to others, TLP youth have the chance to give back and help," continues Rubinson. "Helping others to change their lives is incredibly empowering, and they rightfully feel very proud."

Thank you, TLP Peer Educators and Leaders, for helping us bring support and services to the youth who need them most!

Thanks for Giving!

A fete for our friends

On November 22, we celebrated the dedicated [volunteers](#) and [generous donors](#) who make the work of Teen Living Programs possible.

These good people stuff envelopes, plan outings, ask their friends for money-and more-so we can provide services to hundreds of youth each year.


More than 100 friends of TLP

Thanks for Giving 09

and youth gathered to enjoy tasty food prepared by youth, engage in animated conversation, and tour the new [Belfort House](#).

Thank you, friends of TLP, for all you do, all year round!

Gifts That Make a Difference *Five Easy Ways to Help TLP this holiday season!*

1. Next time you are at the store, **pick up a few sets of long underwear and warm pajamas** for TLP youth. 
2. Making out your grocery list? **Add a few juice boxes, single-serving chips and cookies, energy bars and instant soups.** These items are in great demand by our outreach team.
3. Selecting holiday gift cards for friends and family? **Consider purchasing an extra gift card for TLP youth** (grocery, electronics, discount, and drug stores are most needed).
4. On the way home from work, **stop by the dollar store for items like soap, shampoo, lotion,** and other personal care items for youth.
5. **[Make a donation to our annual fund.](#)** \$50 pays for 10 days of transportation for youth; \$100 fills a welcome basket of necessities for new residents; \$500 buys a new computer for our Learning Lab!

Please be sure all items are new and in original packaging. For more information or to arrange a gift drop-off, please contact [Nia Tavoularis](#).

Recent Gifts

Thank you, Chicago Consular Corps Ladies Club, United Airlines, Gap Foundation, Unitarian Church of Evanston, and American Health Information Management Association, for organizing gift drives in support of Teen Living Programs!

Chicago Consular Corps Ladies Club bought gifts for our

youth from their holiday wish lists. *Thank you for your support!*

[United Airlines](#) collected hats, gloves, pajamas and more in their gift drive. *Thank you for supporting our youth!*

[Gap Foundation](#) is donating dozens of \$25 Old Navy gift cards. *Thank you for your continued support of our youth!*

[Unitarian Church of Evanston](#) has held a gift drive for our youth for a number of years. *Thank you for always thinking of us during the holidays, and special thanks to TLP friend Carol Nielsen for introducing us to your church!*

[American Health Information Management Association](#) has also held a gift drive for our youth for a number of years. *Thank you for your continued holiday support, and once again, special thanks to TLP friend Carol Nielsen for the introduction! (Read more about our friend Carol Nielsen in the December newsletter, coming soon to a mailbox near you!)*

[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 [Web site](#) 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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