

# ANNEX



# ANNEX TEEN CLINIC

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# Mission:

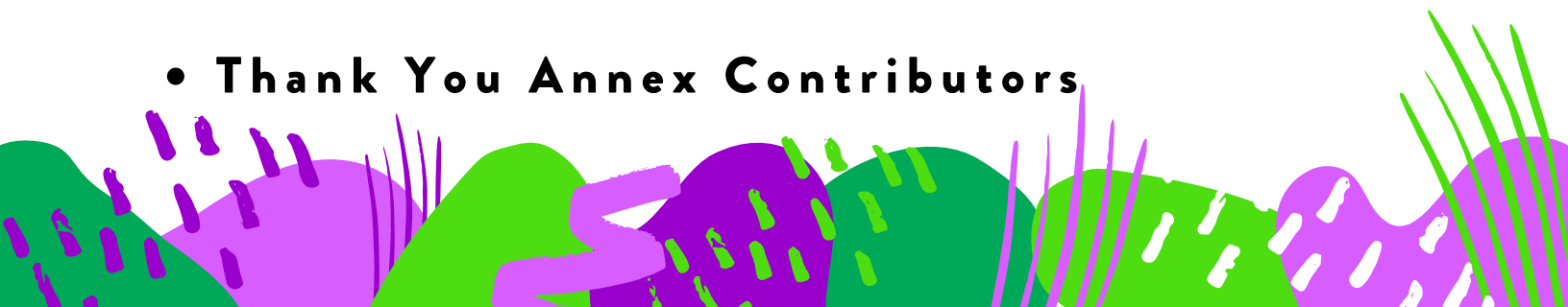
The Annex Teen Clinic helps young people **take charge** of their sexual health by providing **confidential** health services and education.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Board of Directors**
- **Director's Team**
- **Letter from the Executive Director**
- **Mission in Action**
- **In the News**
- **Patient Demographics**
- **Thank You Annex Contributors**



# Board of Directors

**Sandy Naughton**

HealthStart

**Babra Mumia**

Student

**Liz Corey**

MN Department of Health

**April Forster**

Project Success

**Javiera Monardez Popelka**

Hennepin Healthcare

**Jon Braman**

UMN Orthopedic Surgery

**Alissa Foundation**

Children's MN

**Baye Diouf**

UMN Finance

**Chris Sullivan**

Self-Esteem Brands



## Leadership

**Jocelyn Beard**

Board Chair | Tubman

**Scott Dyer**

Vice-Chair | Retired

**Jessica Jerney**

Secretary | Ramsey County Public Health

**Barry Schade**

Treasurer | Retired

# Director's Team

## Brian Russ

Executive Director

## Molly Berg

Director of Clinical Services  
& Operations

## Ellen Saliaries

Director of Sexuality Education

## Holly Leppanen

Director of Development  
& Communications





## Letter from the Executive Director

The Annex Teen Clinic is 50 years old! When I hear those words so many things come to mind but one of the most exciting from my perspective is that the Annex Teen Clinic is here to stay! Our mission remains vital to the health of the communities we serve and the larger community is

recognizing the incredible role the Annex plays in supporting the health and well-being of young people. One of the most transformative lessons I think we have learned together is that, in order for us to successfully fulfill our mission, young people's voices need to be a part of every conversation we have. And those voices need to be heard and given all the authority that the adult voices around the table have been given.

It took a lot of courage from a lot of people to insist that young people deserve access to confidential, fact-based sexual health information and clinical services. There was community support, but as our history shows, some pretty intense opposition. It took a lot of courage from the faith leaders who helped found the Annex to say young people deserve access to sexual health services. It took a lot of courage and commitment from thousands of Annex volunteers to create a place where young people can seek services and support. It took a lot of courage for legislators to pass Minor's Consent in 1971 to allow young people to consent for these services without their parents.

But let's acknowledge who is bringing the real courage! It takes a lot of courage for young people to make an appointment for services related to one of most personal and private human experiences. Young people may grapple with many questions as they consider whether to walk through a clinic's doors. Am I going to be judged for thinking about sex as a young person? Am I going to be judged for acknowledging that I have had sex? Am I going to be judged for not knowing enough? Am I going to be judged for who I love and am having sex with? Am I going to be judged for who I am and how I present myself to the world?

How many doors can young people walk through and know that through those doors they will find support? Because of all of you, the Annex Teen Clinic's doors are open for young people in this community. All of you have chosen to support a mission that proves we can make our communities a better place for young people. All of you have chosen to support a mission that has proven that young people are fully capable of making great decisions about their sexual health when they have access to accurate information, respectful clinical care, and supportive adults. Thank you for helping to make these past 50 years possible.

“Thank you. The Annex is my safe place, and I don’t know what I’d do without it.”



# Mission In Action

The Annex Teen Clinic believes that young people make great decisions for themselves when they have all the facts. Our mission is to provide confidential health services and education so young people can take charge of their sexual health. Hear how Annex staff, young people and supporters have been a catalyst for creating a community where all young people have the resources and support they need to thrive.



## 50th Anniversary of Minor's Consent



2021 marked the Annex's 50th year of partnering with our community by providing confidential sexual health services to young people. It also marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of Minor's Consent Legislation, which gave young people the right to access sexual health services

independently and confidentially. Privacy and confidentiality remain a top concern for the young people who access healthcare at the Annex. Lack of confidentiality continues to be identified as a major barrier for young people wanting to access preventive health services. Reflecting on our history, we are reminded that we cannot take landmark legislation like Minor's Consent for granted. We are grateful to our community for your support in making 50 years of confidential sexual healthcare possible.

# Mission In Action

## Adapting to a Hybrid Model of Care

2021 saw various efforts to rethink how we had done our work in the past. Our challenge was to maintain a focus on our mission and consider how our new reality of engaging with the community both remotely and in person could offer opportunities to make our programming and services more accessible. Were there opportunities to reach young people we weren't reaching before? Were there ways to do our work that were more impactful? How could the technological infrastructure we built in



response to the pandemic be utilized in our new hybrid model? Annex staff took advantage of this time of immense change to collaborate and to move our mission forward in innovative ways. We started to consider what would it mean if clinic services were more accessible to more young people than ever before. Our educators, now with a year of virtual teaching experience under

their belts, were able to make virtual education more interactive and meaningful and find creative ways to connect with young people. The services we provided expanded in response to young people's requests surrounding mental health and remote resources. We were able to connect with experts from across the country and apply their teachings to the work we were doing in person in the community. The Annex staff really took risks and their creativity and adaptability has been inspiring as we enter a new chapter as an organization.

# Mission In Action

## A Time for Courage and Conviction

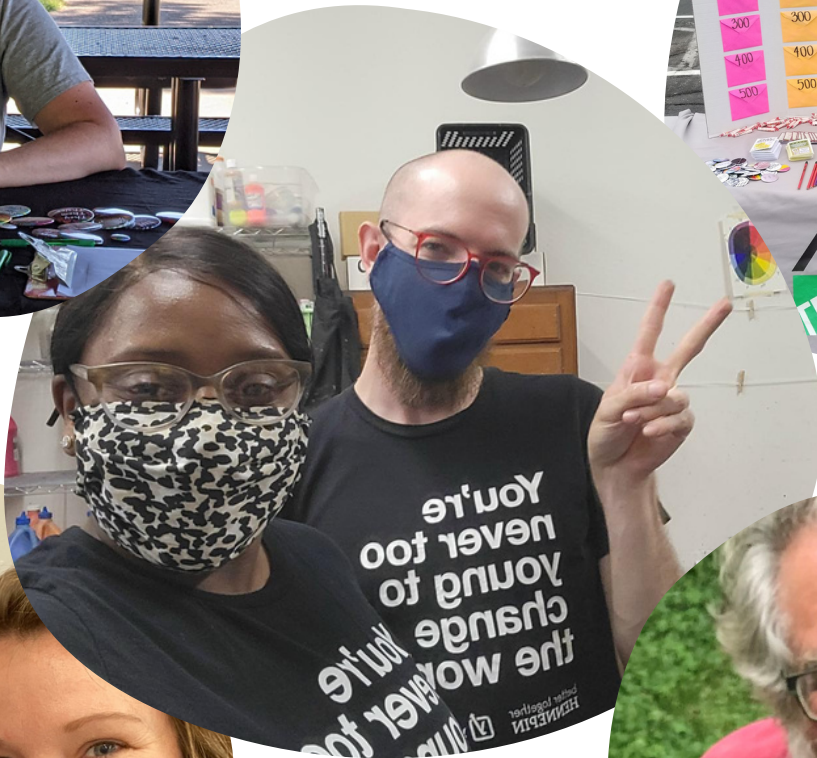
As we reflect on the legacy of the Annex Teen Clinic, we are inspired by the courage and conviction of the adults and young people who fought for confidential sexual health services and fact-based sexual health education throughout our history.

Today is also a time for courage and conviction. We are deeply troubled by attempts to undermine youth access to sexual health information in schools across the country. We believe that young people deserve access to accurate information about their bodies and sexual health. Adolescence is an especially important developmental milestone for young people to form their identities and learn how to navigate the world independently. We hold firm in our belief that parents are the primary sexuality educators of their children. However, attempts to legislate parental control of school curricula from a narrow ideological perspective harm our children's ability to form critical thinking skills, navigate choices, and take charge of their health.

All young people deserve to see themselves reflected at school and to have open and honest conversations about racial and social inequities in our history and today. We believe it is our responsibility to create safe and supportive spaces so that all young people can thrive. We need you to remain outspoken and vigilant to protect and celebrate the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC young people in our lives and call on our schools to do the same. We need you, our courageous community, to stand with young people.



“Thank you so much. It is good to know that I can be healthy and safe and get the information I need from the helpful staff and the wonderful atmosphere here at the Annex.”



# In the News

## Lavender Magazine

Lavender Magazine, a biweekly print and online magazine for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in the Twin Cities Metro, wrote an article titled 'Serve Our Society:

Annex Teen Clinic.' The published piece includes quotes from clinic and health education staff as well as young people in our Youth Leadership Councils to show a variety of perspectives about who the Annex is and how we serve the community.



## Sun Post

The Sun Post, a local print newspaper that covers Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, New Hope, Golden Valley and Robbinsdale, wrote an article titled 'Annex Teen Clinic Celebrates 50 Years in Robbinsdale.' This community piece

documented a brief history of the Annex and portrayed our 50th Anniversary Extravaganza as a night to remember. Executive Director Brian Russ recounted his experience as a long serving member of the Annex staff and teased some of the exciting things the Annex had in store as we closed out the year.



# In the News

## CCX Media

CCX Media, a local television news program serving the Northwest suburbs of the Twin Cities Metro, had our Executive Director Brian Russ on their program to promote the Annex and to discuss what sexual health services that are available to young people in the Northwest Metro. Brian recounted his experiences working at the Annex the past 29 years and encouraged people to appreciate the way conversations around sexual health have changed over time.



## Transition Age Newsletter

In Transition Age Newsletter, a publication about important updates effecting young people in Hennepin County, the Annex received a shout out thanks to our Youtube video 'BIPOC Youth Speak About What Trauma Informed Care Means to Them'.

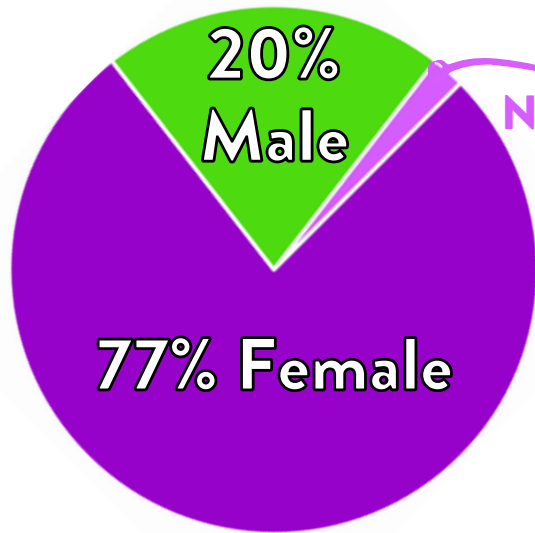
The story in the newsletter highlights our

grant from Community Health Improvement Partnership to collaborate with students of color. In our partnership we were able to learn more about young peoples' experiences with accessing mental health services and encourage them to provide feedback for providers so that they can be more trauma informed in the services they provide.



# Patient Demographics

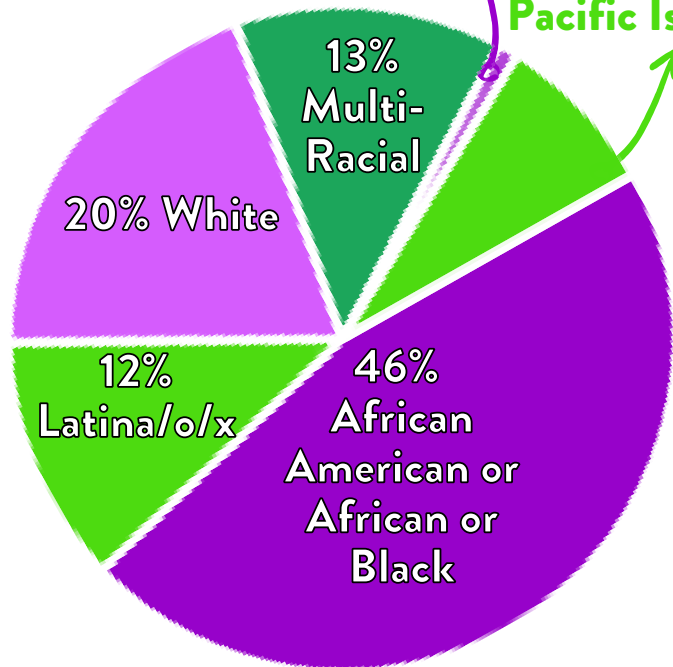
3% Transgender,  
Non-Conforming,  
Non-Binary,  
Other



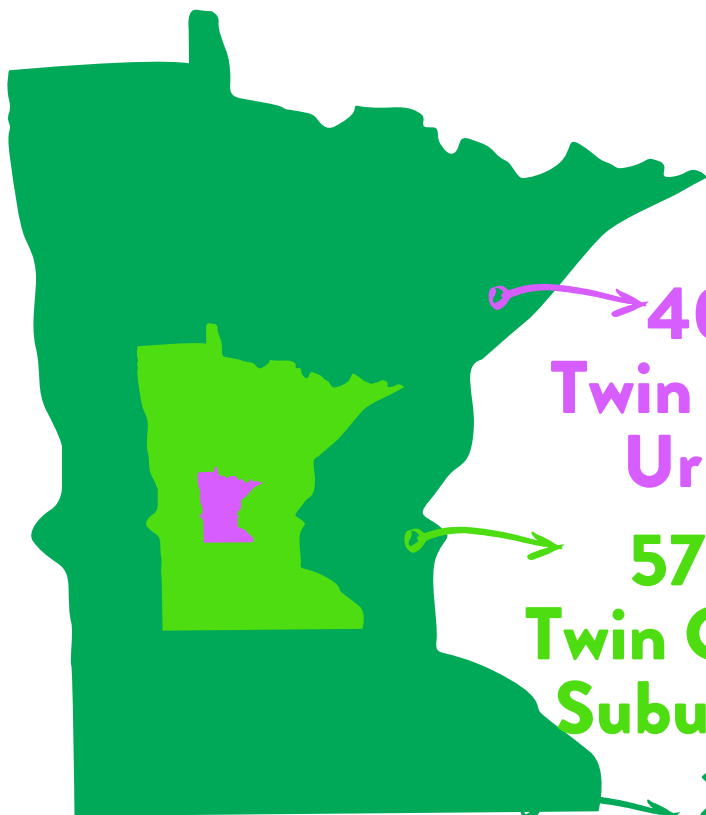
**Gender Identity**

1% American Indian  
or Alaska Native

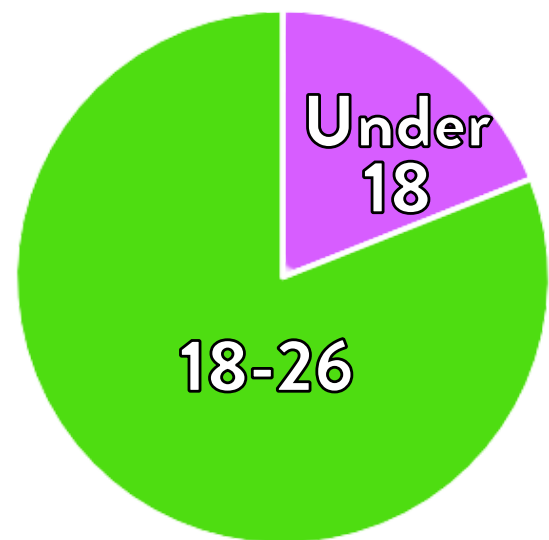
8% Asian or  
Pacific Islander



**Race/Ethnicity**

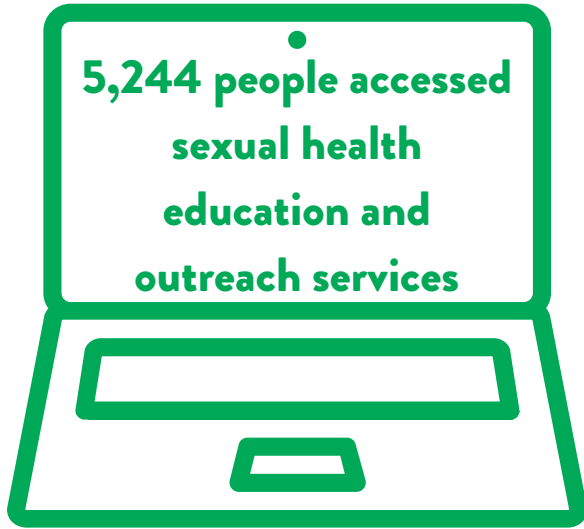


**Location**



**Age**

# Patient Demographics



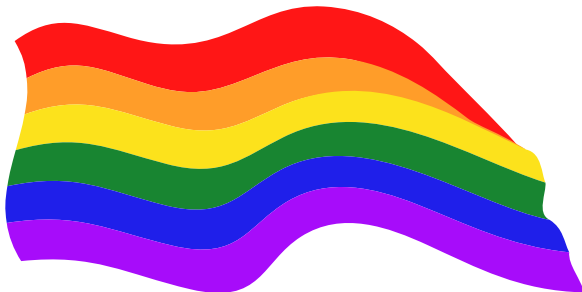
90% of patients  
were low income



1513 patients accessed  
healthcare services



260 caregivers and professionals  
accessed health education



19% of patients  
identified as LGBTQ+



# Thank You Annex Contributors

