

Honoring George Floyd's Legacy: Building a Youth Mental Health and Wellness Community Center in South Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I would like to bring to your attention an important initiative that 846s and Minneapolis youth are working on: "Honoring George Floyd's Legacy: Building a Youth Mental Health and Wellness Community Center in South Minneapolis, Minnesota.

<u>846s.org</u> is a Minnesota public non-profit 501(c)3 organization that focuses on Youth-led initiatives to address violence prevention and safety, mental health, and wellness. 846s is leading a capital campaign to solicit funds to build a Youth Mental Health and Wellness Community Center in South Minneapolis in honor of George Floyd and celebrate his legacy. The center will provide needed services to youth and families in the community who have experienced historical trauma and social injustice in the wake of the George Floyd murder and civil unrests that plagued our community. 846s will work with a network of healthcare professionals, residents and organizations living and working in the Twin Cities to address youth mental health concerns.

Rationale

There is a need to engage the youth on a larger scale in the Twin Cities. They have been walking amongst each other severely impacted by historical racial trauma, disappointment, and a feeling of hopelessness. The tragic murder of George Floyd has confronted the Twin Cities with two options: to wait for the next tragedy or to move forward with a plan to prevent the next tragedy. The events that took place last summer, both the murder of George Floyd and the reactions to it, exasperated existing inequalities in our communities.

Whether there were tangible losses from local businesses or intangible losses, such as the hope in our justice system, the need to move forward is more important than ever, and importance of this lies in the fact that our community does not need to continue facing the same tragedies. Our main goal is to create a one-stop-shop wellness destination for youth to express themselves and discuss issues that matter to them most; help them gain the necessary skills to manage their safety, mental health, and create positive life paths.

846s needs your support to raise funds to actively address youth mental health concerns and develop innovative programs that prioritize black, indigenous, and people of color hiring, a youth career pathway program focusing on mental health care profession, local youth entrepreneurship opportunities and free community mental health programming. The Center will also provide:

- ❖ Satellite offices for a network of healthcare professionals and social workers who will work directly in the community.
- ❖ A community gathering and event space.
- Youth- run Coffee shop.

- Computer room, free tutoring, and homework assistance.
- ❖ George Floyd Lecture Series with a focus on social justice
- Youth entrepreneurship opportunities
- ❖ Free community mental health programing
- Community recording studio, and more.

To learn more about this project check us out @ 846s.org

Proposed Youth Mental Health & Wellness Center



It is within this context that I am appealing to your leadership and kindness to share this initiative with your network to help fund this project which captures the vision of the youth to have a one-stop-shop center that will be a place for healing and bring needed joy to the community.

Finally, it is important to note that Minneapolis youth came up with both the design and drawing of the proposed Youth Wellness & Mental Health Center.

Please find below samples of the work that the youth have led relevant to mental health in our community.

Unpack That - Black youth mental health promotion.

'Like Uber Eats for therapy': South Mpls. man helps connect community to mental health care

Sincerely,

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