

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM CYNDI LAUPER

Dear Friends,

In New York City, a very disproportionate number (up to 40%), of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Even more disturbing are reports that these young people often face discrimination and at times physical assault in some of the very places they have to go to for help. This is shocking and inexcusable!



That's why my manager, Lisa Barbaris and I are collaborating with Colleen Jackson and West End Intergenerational Residence to create the True Colors Residence, (TCR), a permanent supportive housing program for homeless LGBT youth 18-24 years old.

We'll be building it from the ground up so our residents will have a brand new, modern building with studio apartments for each resident, as well as both indoor and outdoor community space to socialize or attend education and recreation programs. Each resident will be responsible for paying affordable rent based on their income and will receive ongoing assistance in obtaining employment best suited to their individual interests and skills. Although TCR will not require participation in its programs, a variety of social and educational support services will be available to all who request them. Our primary goal is to provide a physically and emotionally safe and supportive environment that will empower our young residents to be the self-loving, happy, and successful individuals they were meant to be.

As longtime supporters, Lisa and I know that West End has been a trailblazing forward-thinking organization that is willing to do whatever is necessary to serve those in need. Their services have, in our experience, always met the highest standards.

I am now very excited to report that the True Colors Residence Housing Development Fund Corporation was officially incorporated July 21, 2008 **and** the property acquisition closing took place on July 31st.

I am proud to work with Colleen and West End on such an exciting and important project as the True Colors Residence and I ask for your support as we move forward. You can learn more and keep updated on the Residence by visiting the West End's Web site: www.intergenerational.org.

All my best,

Cyndi Lauper