



# PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY

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## Mission:

The goal of Peace House Community is to offer a non-violent, welcoming and inclusive community for poor and marginalized women and men who are seeking companionship, safety from the streets and personal affirmation. PHC provides a platform for expressing beliefs, hurts, desperation, hopes and fears too long hidden in so many bruised and broken hearts. Community members are affirmed through mutual sharing, respectful listening and appreciation of each person's value and worth.

# Summer 2019 Newsletter

## PHC's Pollinator Garden

What is a pollinator garden? It contains nectar and pollen producing plants specifically chosen to attract pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies.

Knowing that there is a critical decline in the pollinator population, PHC decided to plant a pollinator garden this spring. Volunteers and community members made it happen. We created an oval shaped garden in a sunny spot on the north side of the front lawn and used the sod to cover bare patches in our lawn. Then came the pollinator plants: Aster, Mexican Sunflower, Culvers Root, Lobelia, Lavender, Gray's Coneflower, Scabiosa, Blue Marvel Salvia, Shasta Daisy, Verbena, Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, and Rudbeckia. Many thanks to those who helped create and maintain the garden: Ed, Mark, John, Teri, Jane, Kat, Jeanette and Leon.

The garden is thriving with many bee and butterfly sightings.



## Peace House People - A Project of Media Mike Hazard

Media Mike Hazard has been a friend of Peace House Community since 2005. He first visited PHC in 2005 while making a documentary about Jane McDonald and her sisters, who are all nuns with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. "I was made to feel so welcome, I have been returning ever since," says Mike.

Over the years, Mike has taken thousands of photos at PHC, often providing portraits free of charge to the community members. This year, thanks to a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Media Mike will expand his work at PHC with "Peace House People". The project will allow Mike to photograph and interview individuals at PHC, producing lasting records of the everyday hopes and struggles of those who come through our doors. Mike's goal is to "embody the spirit of Peace House. I want to sing the praises of Peace House people with pictures and words."



Media Mike with Sister Jane  
Photo by Tressa Sularz

PHC will host an exhibit of Peace House People, followed by another exhibit at the Franklin Street Library in February, 2020. Mike will also produce a book on the project, a copy of which will be donated to PHC, and present additional content online. For additional information, or to support Mike's work, go to <https://www.givemn.org/story/Peace-House-People5a0c1c7c7509e>.

**What are Your Questions?** This newsletter is for you, the supporters of Peace House Community. If there is something you would like us to tell you about in our newsletters, send a note to [contact@peacehousecommunity.org](mailto:contact@peacehousecommunity.org).

**How do You Want Your Answer?** PHC is moving to electronic communications. This allows more funds to go to our programming and is easier on the environment. If you would like to receive our newsletters through e-mail, let us know at [contact@peacehousecommunity.org](mailto:contact@peacehousecommunity.org).

## Bicycles Bring Us Together



Jesse at Minnehaha Falls



Jashawn is one of our most dedicated bike riders

People...we're just people and for the most part, if given the opportunity, beautifully wonderful people. All shapes, sizes, colors, religions, backgrounds, colors... well you get the idea... we're all unique and beautiful in our own way.

We tend to 'hang' with 'similar' people. Socioeconomic, race, religion or political positions tend to direct our behavior and as such we can miss out on important opportunities to interact and mutually enjoy a broader group of people.

At PHC we bridge some of those barriers by providing a place to become part of a broader community. And once one becomes willing to take that first step, one discovers that opportunities present themselves. Maybe it's over a shared meal, a conversation on the porch, participating in PHC project, or simply by sitting and being present to see who might join you.

One recent example of how PHC bridges boundaries and makes connections is through our informal annual bike ride which is organized by our community. This year we took a ride from PHC to the Minnehaha Falls for lunch. Total round trip miles were about 15, so not too bad for a little excursion to break up the day, good food, conversation and opportunity to offer and learn something new that one didn't know before.

Check out our pictures. And if you listen to that little voice inside you, it may say to make a financial donation or stop by to learn more. So join us if you can...

In peace, your Friends at Peace House Community

## Catherine's 80th Birthday Fundraiser a Big Success

We asked and you responded generously. In honor of Catherine Mamer's 80th birthday, 102 donors gave a total of \$10,044.80. The largest donation was a very creative \$1939.80 which combined Catherine's birth year and her age. We are thrilled with the generosity of so many of PHC and Catherine's friends. Your donations help us to keep our doors open during these times of increasing needs. Please tell your friends and family who may not have heard of us about our need. Many who donated for Catherine's birthday had never given before. Spread the word and come and see us when you can.

# MANAGER'S CORNER

Part of my job with Peace House Community involves asking people for money. Earlier in my career I dreaded this more than any other part of my job. It felt like begging, asking someone to give me something for nothing and hoping I wouldn't offend them. But over time my view of fundraising (or "development" as it is now called) has shifted, and while it still isn't my first love, it is a lot more fun than it used to be.

I realize now begging means one person gives and another receives. I've learned, both from speaking with donors and from my own experiences supporting charities, that the donor gets many benefits from providing support. Most supporters aren't able to volunteer for every cause they believe in, but by giving financially they ensure that the work they value so highly continues. Donors also get to shape society through their giving. American individuals gave almost \$428 billion in 2018 (with corporations and foundations adding another \$96 billion). That much money has a huge impact. Finally, supporters connect through their giving. Whether they know someone who works for a particular charity or not, donors understand that they are joining a community that shares certain values and goals.

Which brings me to the point of this message: I and all of PHC thank you for your financial support, but I also need to ask for your help. PHC's expenses rose considerably with the creation of the Manager position, but costs for other items in our budget have increased too. To this point our income hasn't increase enough to cover our costs. If you are able to increase your financial support, please do. If you know someone who might want to join our community as a donor, invite them to find out more about PHC or contact me so that I can follow up with them. Finally, PHC has several programs to make it easier to support us, including automatic monthly donations, adding PHC to your estate plan or pledging annual support of \$500 or more. You can contact PHC at any time for more information on any of these programs, or to schedule a visit to see where your money goes.

While PHC will benefit from your generosity, you will discover benefits of your own as well.