



PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY

1816 Portland Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-870-7263

contact@peacehousecommunity.org
peacehousecommunity.org

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.



Spring 2020 Newsletter

With all of the uncertainty that we are all feeling at the moment, we strive to maintain as much normalcy as possible. While Peace House Community (PHC) made the difficult decision to pause our services because of safety concerns, we know that the need for support of the PHC remains the same. Your contributions are needed more than ever. With your financial gift, PHC can plan to reopen our doors, providing a place to belong.

For many of our community members, Coronavirus has disrupted an already chaotic existence and left our community members more isolated than ever. Being able to come back to PHC after this is all over will help heal some of the trauma caused by our current situation.

Will you join us in securing the future of Peace House Community?

MEET THE 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right:

Catherine Mamer, Mary Robinson, Mary Cassioppi, Trisha Gilbert, Deborah Dapkus, Rachael Kennedy, Susan Oeffling, Marti Malby (Director)

Not pictured:

David Scott, Jane Murphy, Jen Vetter, John Gries

Many of us are familiar with the term **it takes a village**. Widely thought to be an African proverb, it means an entire community of people must interact with children for those children to grow in a safe and healthy environment.

The Peace House Community relies on a village as well to help provide the welcoming and nurturing setting that it offers, and to be a place to belong. Our village is made up of many people from many walks of life, all with the same passionate drive to fulfill the mission of the Peace House - to offer a non-violent, welcoming and inclusive community. We rely on the dedicated team of **Board of Directors** to set in place the rules and guidelines necessary for operating an organization; **Marti Malby, our Director** for his firm but compassionate daily direction; **the staff - both paid and volunteers**, that give their time and talents to running the daily operations of the Peace House; our rotating roster of **student interns** for their enthusiasm and dedication; and of course to **you - our supporters and financial donors** that are crucial for the Peace House to operate and fulfill our mission.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As many of you already know, the Peace House Community Board of Directors voted on March 19 to temporarily close PHC in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic. The decision came after much debate, and was made only when it became apparent that our best efforts to keep our community members, volunteers and staff safe at PHC were not going to be enough.

When the Coronavirus reports started coming out we installed an additional handwashing station and increased our reminders to staff and community members about the need for handwashing. We changed our food service to minimize the risk of contamination and increased our cleaning schedule.

As Covid-19 made its way into Minnesota the Board agreed that staff members with health conditions that put them at higher risk would be placed on paid leave. Volunteers who had similar conditions were told they need not feel guilty if they could not fulfill their volunteer commitments.

During the meditation times we asked the community members what other steps PHC could take to make the building safer. On the positive side we found that the community members wanted PHC to stay open so that their routines could remain as normal as possible. On the negative side we found many community members weren't willing to social distance, or even understand why it was necessary. In response we enacted new measures. We moved some of our chairs to the parking lot and limited the number of people in the building to 25 at a time and encouraged those who had their own places to stay home. We supplied take-out containers to encourage community members to eat outside or at home rather than in the building and began handing out meals through the kitchen window so that community members wouldn't have to come into the building if they didn't want to.

Despite these efforts, we realized we could not sustain our operations and provide a safe place for our community members. The decision to close was made more difficult by our community members' situation. We saw that many community members were beginning to show the same strain as everyone else in dealing with the disruptions that Covid was bringing, especially with many of the locations they rely on limiting or closing their services altogether.

While our daily operations have been placed on hold for an indefinite period, PHC will focus on other parts of our operation. We have already begun deep cleaning and organizing of our building, and as spring arrives we will focus on the exterior of the building. We are researching new funding opportunities to support our long-term goals.

As we go through these uncertain times, we ask for your continued support and prayers. All our hourly staff members are on paid leave and PHC will still have our other financial obligations such as insurance, membership fees and even the costs of this newsletter. Although the shut-down limits some of our costs, our financial needs remain. We are determined to carry on our mission and re-open to our community members as soon as possible, and in the meantime we will prepare for what lies ahead.

Please check our website (www.peacehousecommunity.org) and Facebook page for our latest updates.

PHC is Using a New Donor Database (Be Patient With Us)

Peace House Community has been working to improve our communication with supporters, and we've taken the latest step by joining with the software company Little Green Light (LGL).

Transferring the data to LGL has been a long process, and we are still working out some kinks. Please be patient with us as we learn how to use the system to its fullest potential and make sure that the information we have is correct. If you see something that isn't right (like how your name is spelled or similar gaffes), please let us know at contact@peacehousecommunity.org. Also, let us know if you want to start receiving our newsletters electronically. No matter how you receive our newsletter, you can donate to us by sending a check (1816 Portland Ave. Minneapolis MN 55404) or online (<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Peace-House-Community>).

