



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.



2019 Year-End Newsletter

Spreading Joy through Food



Photo by Media Mike Hazard

Cooking is Vern's thing, and at Peace House Community it gives him double the satisfaction. "I like cooking and I like making people happy through my cooking," he explains.

Vern has used food to help PHC for years. He discovered PHC about 18 years ago and served as the cook until a good paying job came along. While the money helped him take care of his kids, he says he would have preferred staying at PHC. "I came to Peace House when I could," he says, "but I was working 30 hours of overtime a week."

Vern's life took a downturn in 2004. Robbers broke his jaw, and a few months later a car hit him as he rode his bike. "I went from \$1,200 a week to less than \$1,200 a month because of my back injury," he says. Once he completed his therapy, he came back to PHC, where the community helped him through the difficult time.

When asked where he would be if not at PHC, Vern is non-committal. "The other places? The food - not so great. The atmosphere - not so great. The building - not so great." Then he states emphatically, "Peace House is the best community center." He adds that sharing his birthday with PHC's founding (Oct. 17) makes it even better.

MANAGER'S CORNER

And suddenly, it's December. Like many of you, I'm wondering where the last few months went. It wasn't that long ago that I was riding my bike home from PHC in shorts and t-shirt. Now, I'm helping plan our Christmas celebration and looking at our year-end financials.

So much has happened this year. We mourned the loss of six community members and four past volunteers. We celebrated as community members became grandparents. We felt the pain of volunteers sidelined by sickness, injury and the challenges that aging brings. We struggled as vandalism and drug dealing increased in our neighborhood, making our members feel less safe coming to PHC. And we received invitations from schools, social service agencies and the Native American community to join together to create a stronger, more loving world.

I want to thank each of you who has played a part in making this happen. PHC is a special place, unlike any other community I've seen. It absorbs new people as they come, yet it always keeps its character. It welcomes those who can't function or find a place to belong anywhere else in society. To all those who have sent money or dropped off supplies or said a prayer for us or reported something about us on social media, thank-you.

Year-End Giving

With both gratitude and celebration, PHC can say that we are close to balancing our budget for 2019. But we still need some help getting into the black. Please consider a year-end gift to help us out. We need to raise about \$25,000 in the month of December to cover our costs.

Coming Together ...

As the sun disappeared in the west, volunteers, community members, staff and supporters relaxed together at Peace House Community. Music floated from the corner where a trio played and sang. Volunteers shared their experiences. Community members told why PHC is more than a drop-in center to them. Delicious smells wafted from the kitchen.



Each person who joined us for our Harvest Gathering was reminded that they have a valued place at PHC and a role in connecting people in a fractured world. Whether you are at the PHC building every day or have never visited but pray for us, you too are part of our community and our family.

(And for those who are curious, we raised over \$5,000 during the Harvest Festival, more than meeting the Matching Challenge for the night. In total the event brought in over \$9,500.)

... And Giving Thanks ...



A house full to overflowing, with stomachs to match. On the day before Thanksgiving PHC celebrated with a huge meal and a liturgy to remind us of all the blessings we experience. It truly was a day of thanks, as everyone was in a good mood. "It was the best day we've had here in over six months," said Marti Maltby (PHC's Manager), to which Leon (PHC's Janitor) replied quickly, "Amen!" Members and volunteers got along, laughed, enjoyed the food and put up with the crowded room in a spirit of celebration. It was wonderful.

... For the Gifts We Receive

Peace House Community wants to thank our supporters and partners who have shared in our ministry this year:

- Blake School
- Listening House
- Loaves and Fishes
- The Alley
- Breck School
- Cretin-Derham Hall
- Midway Bicycle Supply
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Church of the Sacred Heart (Sauk Rapids)
- Saint Bonaventure Catholic Church (Bloomington)
- City House
- Greater Twin Cities RSVP
- Pax Christi Parish
- Media Mike Hazard
- Church of Gichitwaa Kateri
- Amerigo
- Wedge Co-op
- Gilligan Foundation
- St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church
- Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
- Kopp Family Foundation
- St. Joan of Arc Parish
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- St. Catherine's University
- Bryn Mawr Market
- Ciranda, Inc.
- St. Joseph's Sleeping Bag Ministry (Crosby)
- Simmet Family Fund

If we missed you, we're sorry! We still appreciate all you do!