



# 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.

# Spring 2019 Newsletter



### Deborah Dapkus

My mother, Rachel Dapkus and I have been staunch supporters of the Peace House for many years. Providing a safe and welcoming space for marginalized people is a value I was raised with. I look forward to being able to work to further this goal as a Board member.



### Trisha Gilbert

My background lies in human services, from Treatment centers and working with at risk youth to my current position in working with adults who are long-term homeless. I enjoy giving back to my community and have always volunteered with different organizations.



### Jane Murphy

I have known about Peace House Community for years. This September, several former nurse classmates from St. Catherine's and I visited Cathy Mamer at PHC. I liked what I saw, so said "Sign me up." Cathy did just that! After just three weeks I was so happy to be involved.

And a very special thank-you to the Board members whose terms just ended. Gwen Martin served as the Co-Chair (along with Mary Cassioppi) of the Board, and Ed Hasselman served as the Board's Secretary. Ginger Hedstrom served as a member at large and was largely responsible for our newsletters. We wish each of them success in their next endeavors.

## MANAGER'S CORNER

One of Peace House Community's core values is to remember our members when they can't be with us. We were recently reminded of this value when we received a letter from Riyadh, a community member who has spent the last six years in state correction facilities and is scheduled for release in 2028. After updating us on his situation, he wrote:

*Peace House has always had a special place in my heart. I been in and out of those meditations since the late 90s and Peace House never changed or turned its back on me, period. When I do get out on parole I plan to stop by and drink a cup of coffee, eat a donut and see how long before somebody recognizes me! Ha ha. Well, hope everyone's day is blessed and if you think of an old friend or family member you ain't spoke with in a few, go ahead and check on them and say hi on the phone, social media or best yet, in person. Take care.*

Of course, we immediately passed around a card for everyone to sign to send back to Riyadh. Despite his situation, he is still part of PHC, and we are glad he knows it. We want all of you to know that you too are part of our community, and that even if you never physically visit the PHC building (but we hope you will!), your support and donations ensure that this community has a base from which it can offer love, acceptance and encouragement to those who need it.

A big thank-you to all of you!

# Celebrating Catherine's 80th Birthday



Catherine with Dr. Virgil

Catherine Mamer's call to Peace House Community took the form of an invitation from its founder, Sr. Rose Tillemans. They were together at an arraignment hearing for their participation in an anti-war protest against Honeywell Corporation when Sr. Rose offered the invitation, "Come to Peace House and see what we are about." So Catherine came and knew in an instant that she fit in. The first visit was in 1987. Catherine never left.

When asked what core values she shares with PHC, Catherine does not hesitate: hospitality, compassion, love, and non-judgment. "Here at Peace House, hospitality is all about welcoming people as persons of worth. That means we need to manage our disappointment when relationships hit a bump in the road. Love," Catherine says, "is about keeping the lines of communication open with people no matter what so that they know that someone loves them." Catherine recognized early in her life people needed to experience love in and from a community. ***"People," she says, "need a community, and community can only emerge when people understand they belong just as they are."***

## PHC goes Electronic

In the recent months we have been improving our presence on electronic media. We are revising our website as well as regularly posting and putting more content on our Facebook page. We have also created a PHC LinkedIn page to connect with more agencies that serve our community members.

You can join our effort by requesting to receive future newsletters electronically rather than through the mail. Not only will you be saving trees, you will be helping put more of our valuable donor dollars directly toward the costs of our operations. Please consider responding prior to publication of the next quarterly newsletter. You may make this request by sending an email to [contact@peacehousecommunity.org](mailto:contact@peacehousecommunity.org), by contacting us at our website at <http://www.peacehousecommunity.org/contact.php>, by contacting us at our Facebook page, or by including a note with your donation. Please be sure to include your email address.

Help us celebrate Catherine's birthday with a "Special 8" donation!

- \$8 per month (\$96 for one year) will pay for over 1,000 pounds of food through Loaves and Fishes.
- \$80 will let PHC hire eight community members for odd jobs (e.g. washing windows, grounds clean up, etc.).
- \$800 pays for 900 MetroTransit bus tokens.
- \$8,000 pays for an entire year of water, trash removal, electricity and gas at PHC (it's not glamorous, but it is needed).



### BIKE MECHANIC WANTED

Do you love talking with people? Are you good with your hands? Do you enjoy combining the two by getting to know people while fixing bikes? If so, PHC needs you. Our community members rely on bikes to get around, but they don't always have the tools or skills to keep them running smoothly. If you think this might be a good fit for you or want more information, contact Marti Maltby for more information (612-870-7263 or [marti@peacehousecommunity.org](mailto:marti@peacehousecommunity.org)).

Time commitment: flexible, but about four hours a week

Skills needed: outgoing and mechanically minded  
What PHC provides: Bike tools and many bike riders

