



# 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.



# YEAR-END 2021 NEWSLETTER

## THANK YOU

for your continued  
faithful support!



### Message from Catherine Mamer

We are so grateful to all our wonderful donors to Peace House Community. Some of you give monthly, some quarterly and some yearly. Whatever your level of giving or timing of giving, we are grateful. It seems that many people become more generous for end of the year giving. We are truly counting on that so that we can meet our budget for 2021 and plan our budget for 2022. If you are able, we would so appreciate another gift from you. We are deeply grateful.

Peace House Community thanks our supporters and partners who have shared in our ministry this year:

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Kopp Family Foundation

Otto Bremer Trust

The Alley

Quality Bicycle Products

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church

Cretin-Derham Hall/Amerigo

Greater Twin Cities RSVP

Media Mike Hazard

Ciranda, Inc.

St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (New Brighton)

Pax Christi Parish

Loaves and Fishes

Church of Gichitwaa Kateri

St. Joseph's Sleeping Bag Ministry (Crosby)

Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance

Simmet Family Fund

Wedge Co-op

Church of the Sacred Heart (Sauk Rapids)

St. Catherine's University

Greater Twin Cities RSVP

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

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MEET RED

Red loves the Kansas City Chiefs, and will tell anyone willing to listen. He'll also tell Vikings fans who don't want to listen, which is part of what Red enjoys about coming to Peace House Community. After years of watching the Chiefs struggle, Red is delighted with their recent success. "Always cheered for the Chiefs when they started getting good. I used to not like them 'cause they sucked for years, till they got Andy Reid. Everybody thought they were going to do good when they got Joe Montana and Marcus Allen, but they still sucked. They never got a good quarterback. They always got the old, burned up quarterbacks."

Like his football team, Red went through many hard years before things started looking up. Homelessness and drug use made his life look something like the Chief's losing record.

"I did a long time out on the streets. All the shelters, they know who I am, and they seen me turn my life around. They seen how bad I was, so thank God they helped me get my life straight. They helped me because a couple of times I got caught on the street using drugs, and I went to sober living, and when I got out I never looked back. It made me happy to get off the streets. I realized, man, you can't party with your friends inside the apartment like you do outside, because you'll lose the apartment. I seen all these people losing their apartments. I can't do that. I fought with my girl, I lost a few apartments messing with my girl because we were on drugs at the time. I learned my lesson. I went through a lot of \$%\*%."

Even in the darkest time, though, Red had some things going for him. His friend Arnold introduced him to PHC. "I used to go to the yellow house, the old Peace House when it was over on Franklin. I knew a lot of people who would go over there. This Peace House is good for people around here who are homeless. I think it keeps the crime down, to be able to help people out like this. You know, if they don't have nothing to eat, they have to go steal something, they go to jail, and it ain't worth it."

PHC didn't just help "people who are homeless". It, and its founder Sister Rose, helped Red too. "I met Sister Rose. She was nice. We had good times. We had the Peace House picnics at the Minnehaha Falls and it was wonderful. Peace House has always been good."

Eventually, Red started turning things around. It started with some teaching his mother had given him. "I'll never forget my mother telling me, 'Take care of yourself. That's all you got to do.'"

So Red did start taking care of himself. He changed his life and, like the Chiefs, he stuck with it until it paid off. "I was on the streets for a long time, man, before I got housing. It took a lot of bad \$%\*% to go through before I realized I had to get off the drugs and get my life in order to get an apartment. I got off drugs and I wouldn't let people in my apartment, because they were off the streets and they didn't care about my apartment. They just wanted to do the drugs, but I quit the drugs. I'm doing way better than I ever did in my life. Now I'm doing the best I ever did."

Red's success is even more impressive considering his wife of 20 years died of cancer on Sept. 10, 2020. Despite the heartache, Red stayed sober and kept his place. "I'm on Social Security and I pay my rent. It took me over seven years to get public housing and now that I got that I ain't messing that up. I've been there over two years. So I'm doing good, the best I ever did in my life."

Ever the Chiefs fan, Red thinks his team may have the same success that he has. "Now we've got the best quarterback in the league, so I think we'll win another Super Bowl. You watch."



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

## MEET THE SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

The Peace House Community social media team is a group of talented and dedicated volunteers. We are so fortunate to have them and are grateful for all of their hard work. They keep the PHC website ("peacehousecommunity.org") and social media sites – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn – updated and lively, which engages our supporters and donors, and promotes fundraising initiatives. Please be sure to follow us.



Marti Malby – Alex Celeste – Catherine Mamer  
Ed Hasselman – Kimberly Saward – Deborah Dapkus  
Kassandra McCarthy – Mary Cassiopi

### Alex Celeste

It is great to be able to provide the dual hats of volunteering to help edit the website and also provide its hosting through Tenseg. I consider myself more the pencil than the artist, because I can put content up on the website, and am gatekeeper for what is technically possible.

### Catherine Mamer

I came to Peace House Community nearly 36 years ago at the invitation of Sister Rose. When Sr. Rose died in 2002 I took over as director and had that responsibility for 10 years. I love being part of what I call a Little United Nations that we have here at PHC. I feel like I am part of a very big family.

### Ed Hasselman

Following my retirement I've had the pleasure to volunteer at Peace House Community. PHC offers the opportunity to break down barriers and support the notion that we are all one family. And as such, we listen to, care for, and enjoy the gift of each other.

### Kimberly Saward

I'm a California native, but I have been living with my husband on the east coast of southern England for the past 20 years. While the pandemic has kept me separated from my family and communities in America, I have enjoyed being able to use what I call my geek skills which in a small way, have helped me make a difference even during difficult times.

### Deborah Dapkus

As a Board member I collaborate with others on how to keep PHC open and safe as well as develop a strategic plan for the future. As a volunteer I enjoy meeting and interacting with the diverse pool of community members and volunteers. And as a member of the social media team I can continue to utilize some of my marketing skills.

### Kassandra McCarthy

I currently live in Boston, MA and I am a remote volunteer on the social media committee at PHC. I've been able to get a sense of how much Peace House means to so many people. Trying to communicate that to our followers and supporters via our social media has been a fun and rewarding challenge.

### Mary Cassiopi

I enjoy the relationships I've developed within the community. I feel many simple and sometimes complex ideas exchanged prove that "people are people" the world over. I firmly believe that PHC makes a big difference in the lives of the people we serve and I know we are unique in our approach to our community members, acceptance to wherever a person is at the time we are spending together.



Peace House Community  
1816 Portland Avenue S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

---

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit # 1024

---



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I sometimes describe Peace House Community as a magical place to work. Usually when I say that, I mean that working here provides me with a wonderful feeling of contentment that can't easily be explained. Occasionally, however, I mean that PHC produces something that

completely baffles me, like a magician pulling a rabbit from a hat.

When people thank me for what I do at PHC, I usually reply that I really don't do much. I make sure we have the raw materials we need to keep PHC open, but the community that develops, the fun people have, the acceptance that they experience are all beyond anything I can "do". We invite an insanely diverse group of people to come together, and something wonderful happens as a result. And I can't explain how it happens. To give you just one example, I would never have introduced a fashionable retired white female volunteer to a former gang member from St. Louis and expected them to bond over a shared interest in glass blowing. But it happened.

As we come to the end of another year, I want to genuinely thank all of you who have supported us with your prayers, your time, your expertise, your compassion, and your finances. You are as much a part of our community as anyone who walks through our doors. The magic that happens here wouldn't be possible without each person making their own unique contribution. Peace House Community is well-named. Before anything else, it is a community, a gathering of people who connect and who welcome each other, whether they are physically present or not. Just as Sister Rose still contributes to PHC's atmosphere 20 years after her death, each of you contributes as well.

Thank-you.