



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

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



PEACE
HOUSE
COMMUNITY

1816 Portland Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-870-7263
contact@peacehousecommunity.org
peacehousecommunity.org

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Mission:

Peace House Community (PHC) nourishes its members' bodies and souls by providing a safe space for economically marginalized women and men. PHC enriches the lives of its members, volunteers and students by offering a place to belong for everyone who comes through its doors.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

In June, Peace House Community sent out a supporter survey to give us a sense of why so many people give to PHC, and why they follow our activities through social media. The responses gave us a clear idea of your interest in PHC's ministry. We heard repeatedly that PHC's supporters love that everyone has a safe, welcoming place that accepts and nurtures them.

We also heard that you wanted to know more about our finances and the results that your support is producing. With that in mind, we have started including some brief statistics in these newsletters. While we are encouraged to know that you are excited to support PHC's mission and ministry, we also recognize that we are facing bigger needs than ever before. When I started at PHC in 2018, we thought we were having a busy day if 50 community members showed up. Today, hosting less than 100 members is considered a slow day. Between the lingering effects of the pandemic, the end of the eviction moratorium, inflation, and supply problems, more people than ever are turning to PHC to meet both physical and emotional needs.

In response to these challenges, the PHC Board of Directors is crafting a three year strategic plan to expand our operations and aggressively confront the challenges our community faces. The Board will make announcements as the plan takes shape, but for now you can rest assured that we are doing all we can to be a community for those who most need us.

As we have said so many times before, we are thankful for each and every supporter we have. PHC could not have made it through the first 37 years without so many people giving their time and resources to its mission. As we embark on the next phase of our work, we are strengthened knowing that you are supporting us and standing with us. THANK-YOU!

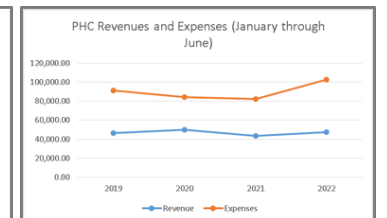
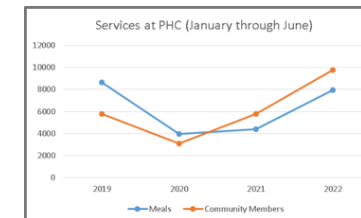
Marti Malby

The Board is Staying Busy

The PHC Board of Directors spent eight hours over two Saturdays in May developing a strategic plan for the next three years at PHC. The meetings were the start of a process to guide PHC in meeting the exploding needs its community has. The Board will share details of the plan as they are finalized.



Left to right: Patrick Messmer; Jim Reetz; Marti Malby, Executive Director; Deborah Dapkus; Jane Murphy; Meg Mannix; David Scott; Kelly Simon; Monica Nilsson. Not pictured: Jen Vetter; Catherine Mamer, Honorary member



What do these Graphs Mean?

The graph on the left says, "The needs at PHC are greater than ever in these tumultuous times." And it confirms that the tenets that PHC rests on – to provide a welcoming, non-violent and inclusive community for those seeking companionship and safety from the streets; to provide a place to belong – are still as relevant now as they were 37 years ago. The graph on the right says, "Meeting those needs is becoming more expensive!" By supporting PHC, you help us meet the social, emotional and physical needs of the community. And we all thank you for your continued support.

Upcoming Donor Challenge

Exciting News! A generous donor has pledged \$5,000 to support the mission of the Peace House Community in the form of a donor challenge! Watch our next newsletter and our social media sites this fall for information on how you can help PHC receive these funds!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MEET KAT



Kat has been coming to Peace House Community for decades, so her desire to contribute to the community shouldn't surprise anyone. But Kat does more than talk about how much she loves PHC; she puts her words into action.

This spring, Kat got tired of the graffiti and stains on the porch area, so she brought her handheld sander and started refreshing the woodwork. "It looked so ugly and dirty and icky," she explains. By the time she finished, the railings around the porch had been sanded, stained, and varnished, and the columns got a new coat of paint. Kat estimates she worked for at least 30 hours on the project. "It took me about a month to get it all done. The sanding was the hardest part. My arms felt like rubber bands or spaghetti noodles."

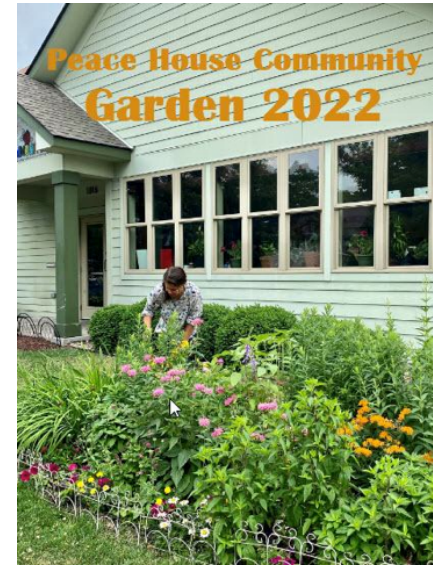
She followed that up by organizing a yard sale to raise money for Plexiglas to partially enclose the porch in the winter. PHC used plastic sheets to keep the wind off the porch during the last two winters, but it wasn't very effective. "I had to redo the plastic three times last winter," she remembers. "I think the Plexiglas will keep it warmer, and you won't have to go through so much tape and plastic and staples."

Kat believes the work she put into the yard sale was worth it. "It wasn't as hard as I thought it would be because I had help from [volunteers] Deborah and Mary Robinson. Once we got it started, it went pretty fast. The yard sale itself was fun. It did a whole lot better than I thought it would." Kat raised \$282 for the Plexiglas, but she isn't finished yet. "My goal in the long run is to raise \$1,000. I'm trying to think of other fundraisers, but my mind is going real slow with the heat and humidity [today]." She adds that she has considered organizing a car wash or another yard sale in the fall.

Part of Kat's enthusiasm comes from the other community members. "I got a lot of compliments from the community once I got [the porch] all sanded. They're actually not putting graffiti on it now. Deep down inside everyone wants to keep it looking nice."

Kat adds that she is not the only one contributing to PHC's upkeep. "I've noticed that there's a lot more people helping at the end of the day [to clean up and put supplies away]," she says. "I like to see that. If you see something that needs to be done, just do it. That's what I did."

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PHC



Warm temperatures, rain and lots of loving care have created a bountiful and beautiful flower garden in front of the PHC this summer. It's sure to bring smiles to the faces of those entering the building, the neighbors and hopefully even the people driving by on Portland Avenue.



Catherine is on the Mend

As many of you may know, our beloved Catherine Mamer had surgery on her fractured hip at the end of May. She spent time in the hospital and at a Rehab Center, but now, thanks to her devoted daughters, friends and neighbors, she is at home and recovering nicely. We can't wait until she is able to come back to PHC!



PHC Yard Sale!

It was a hot and breezy day in June for the PHC yard sale. Thanks to Kat for the idea, and to everyone who donated items, sorted and priced, set up, cashiered during the sale, cleaned up afterwards and to those who made purchases. We all agreed it was a lot of work but we made almost \$300 to put toward buying Plexiglas for the back porch.



Summer Solstice Barbeque

The PHC Special Events committee planned a barbeque on Tuesday, June 21st to celebrate the Summer Solstice. Vern and his crew fired up the grills and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs. There were salads, chips, pickles, jello, lots of sweets and a big cake decorated in the national colors of Ukraine. It was a great way to celebrate the longest day of the year with good company, good food and relaxed, happy surroundings.