



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

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PEACE
HOUSE
COMMUNITY

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peacehousecommunity.org

SPRING 2023 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

The Canadian band Rush introduced me to the saying Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose - the more things change, the more they stay the same. While this saying is usually meant as a truism, it has become something of a mission statement for Peace House Community.

By now, I'm sure you're aware that PHC is hosting more community members than ever before. We hosted just over 24,200 community member visits in 2022, but we are on track to host over 28,500 community visits this year. Many organizations would be excited by this growth. The thinking goes:

- "If we're growing that much, we must be doing things well."
- "Our community members obviously want to be here."
- "Think of how good this will make us look to the foundations we are asking for funding."

At PHC, we can't afford to think that way, because growth can actually be dangerous for us. Right from the start, PHC has always focused on building relationships and valuing our members as individuals. Rose Tillemans said that her vision for PHC was "a place to be with others seeking spirituality, friendship, and affirmation." There are only so many friendships one person can have, and only so many people we can affirm in a day before we lose the personal touch. Telling a community member we're glad they are here, when we don't remember their name or even realize that they visited us before, undercuts Rose's values of community and treating each community member as a sacred individual.

And so, Plus ça change ... We won't turn anyone away, but we work hard to make sure we are not overwhelmed by the number of members who come to us. We still try to learn names. We want everyone to feel like a guest, not a burden or a number.

For you, our supporters who empower us to meet the growing needs, we have eternal gratitude. Without you, there would be no friendly welcome, no calm space, no neighborhood coffee shop for our members. Thank-you for keeping PHC going, and for supporting Rose's vision and our work, through all the changes we experience.

Marti Malby

PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023



Catherine Murphy - Monica Nilsson - David Scott, Chair
Marti Malby, Executive Director - Deborah Dapkus, Secretary - Jim Reetz, Treasurer
Jane Murphy - Catherine Mamer, Honorary member - Patrick Messmer
Not pictured: Meg Mannix

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall health and viability of the Peace House Community. We are currently seeking members who had similar life experiences to our community members, and anyone who has experience in fundraising, strategic planning, community partnerships, and similar areas to help PHC expand its programming and solidify its future. If you are interested, please contact Peace House Community at 612-870-7263 for more information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT!

As many of you know, Peace House Community's supporters came through in a big way in 2022, and we want to say a very big thank-you to you on behalf of our community! Because of a growing need for our services and a good reputation in our neighborhood, we hosted more community members than ever in our history last year. At the same time, we faced the same inflation problems as everyone else. However, thanks to your generosity and concern for PHC's community members, we ended the year with a deficit of less than \$2,600. That's less than 1% of our budget! Thank-you to everyone who donates their time, their resources, or who simply prays for us or follows us on social media. Everything helps in serving our community.

COMMUNITY



It is vitally important for PHC to maintain good relationships with other social service organizations, governmental agencies, our neighbors, and those who share our values and mission. These connections provide greater opportunities for the community at large, as well as for the members of Peace House Community. Marti is making sure that PHC's visibility is increasing, our reputation is positive, and our community members do not miss out on any possibilities. Here are just a few of the ways he is accomplishing this:

- PHC has connected with Masjid An-Nur, a mosque that offers housing, employment and drug treatment programs. Since we are hosting a large number of homeless East African immigrants, Masjid An-Nur will help us with providing the cultural competence to overcome their challenges.
- PHC will host a table at the upcoming Community Connections Conference on Saturday, June 10 that the city of Minneapolis is hosting.
- Marti is attending bi-weekly Unsheltered/Opioid Crisis Response meetings, hosted by the Native American community that is centered along Franklin Avenue and the Little Earth housing development. The meetings help us stay connected with resources for the Native American community, and with drug trends, locations of encampments, and similar information.
- PHC is coordinating with a coalition that serves those exiting state prisons to make it easier for ex-offenders to find a stable community and maintain contact with others who are helping them through their transition.
- Marti spoke at the annual Minnesota Social Service Association conference in Minneapolis on March 18. He discussed organizational ethics with an audience of about 160.



PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY UPDATES



ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL

For 38 years, hundreds of people have come together each December for the annual Homeless Memorial to remember those who died during the year. On December 15, 2022, we honored the memories of 268 people: 153 were experiencing homelessness at the time they died, 95 had previously been homeless, and 20 were advocates. PHC recognized Frank Four Bear, Curt Davis and Carla Kjellbergh.

IN MEMORIAM

PHC recently lost a longtime community member, employee and friend, Ed Thomas. Ed worked in PHC's kitchen for a couple of years, and stayed in contact with the community. His gentle humor and quick laugh will be missed.



COLD WEATHER IS NO OBSTACLE!

Even if the weather is blustery and it's not technically a bike that needs repair, Daniel Gerdts, fondly known as "the bike man," faithfully volunteers his time repairing community members' transportation. Winter or summer, bicycles or anything with wheels, Dan is there to help.

Do you have a special talent or skill like Dan's? Please consider being a daily volunteer at PHC. We have other volunteers who cut hair, give back and neck massages, do manicures, lead art projects, complete repairs and maintenance in the building, and much, much more. Please go to the PHC website (www.peacehousecommunity.org) and click on the Get Involved tab, or call Peace house at 612-870-7263.

HOLIDAY PARTY AND GIFT-BAG GIVEAWAY

The 2022 annual holiday party and gift-bag giveaway was a great success. The mood was upbeat and the lunch was delicious. We gave out about 140 bags at the party and another 60 over the next few days. Thank you to all who participated.



MEET OUR NEW COOK, KELLY SIMON

We are thrilled to introduce Kelly Simon as our new cook. Kelly is a familiar face around Peace House Community, having been the cook for Loaves and Fishes when they moved into PHC in 2020. She also served on the PHC Board of Directors for a year. Kelly is excited to be able to carry on Sister Rose's vision of nourishing the bodies of community members along with nourishing their souls. As you can see, she prepares balanced and nutritional lunches, served on plates with a smile and a greeting to "enjoy."

