



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

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PEACE
HOUSE
COMMUNITY

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SUMMER 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

So much is happening at Peace House Community these days that I don't know how best to use this space. I want our supporters to know what they are accomplishing through their support, but I also want to discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie in the future. Part of the challenge is that the world continues to change, and PHC is getting carried along with the tide. We do our best to focus on our mission, but we have to do that in the midst of events that are beyond our control.

Some of the accomplishments that we have been able to control include:

- Becoming a resource not only to our community members but also to our neighborhood. We've always focused on providing a safe space for marginalized individuals, but we are learning more about how our ministry ensures that our members don't have to loiter in front of businesses, block sidewalks, and so on. We are learning how to be a resource for everyone, not just our members.
- Holding our first neighborhood clean-up day. We sometimes create problems for our neighbors in the form of garbage, abandoned property, and so on. To make things right, community members, volunteers and staff scoured the blocks around PHC to make the neighborhood more livable for our neighbors.
- Staying open on the 4th of July. For many of our members, the days when PHC closes are a trial of boredom and loneliness. We remained open this year on the 4th to ensure that our members knew they were valued.

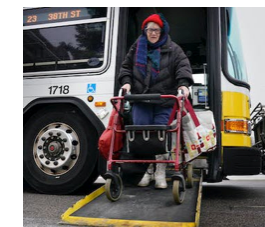
At the same time, we have to respond to challenges beyond our control:

- Dundry House, a low income apartment building on our block, closed in June because of ongoing problems with crime and vandalism. With our neighborhood already dealing with high crime rates and open drug use, we doubt that having an abandoned building on the block will make our area more peaceful.
- The number of community members we serve continues to rise. I keep thinking that the number of members we host will plateau, but instead they climb, stretching all of our resources. This means that many of our longtime members don't feel comfortable at PHC anymore. This is perhaps our biggest concern. With so much change in our neighborhood and so many new members flooding in, many of our veterans tell us that "it doesn't feel like Peace House anymore." I understand their comments, because sometimes I feel that way too. But, despite the challenges we face (or maybe because of them), PHC will continue to focus on giving our members a place to belong where they feel heard and appreciated.

As I said, PHC is determined to stay true to its mission. We are thankful for all of our supporters who make PHC's activities possible at all. Thank-you for joining us in serving our community.

Marti Matthey

JOY'S BILL PASSES!



Joy Rindels-Hayden has worked tirelessly for years to get a legislative bill passed to improve transit safety for walker users. And finally with the help of her House author, Rep. Samantha Sencer-Mura, the bill passed this session. Advocates say this bill will significantly enhance the lives of Minnesotans with disabilities. Metro Transit bus drivers will receive instruction on assisting people with mobility devices, such as walkers and wheelchairs. We're very proud of Joy for her advocacy and impact on the community!



The editor of the **Minnesota Women's Press**, Mikki Morrisette, visited PHC last week and included us in the magazine's latest email blast. She featured PHC as a Changemaker that brings people together in conversations about values, solutions and action steps. Here is an excerpt from the article:

Last week, Crystal and I visited Peace House near downtown Minneapolis to participate in a conversation circle with a mix of volunteers, formerly unhoused individuals, and unhoused people. The current space in a residential neighborhood was custom-built to their needs for a large gathering room and kitchen with library, space for art projects, and pictures of community members — including those who have passed. Massage therapists, haircut practitioners, and even a criminal defense attorney who does bike repair, are among the volunteers who spend time with the daytime visitors. Hygiene kits and occasional Twins tickets are made available. One of the women who shared her story while we were there — in a group conversation about the balance between the positives and negatives in daily life — was a powerful voice of hope, loss, generosity, and love. She is no longer unhoused, but visits regularly because she feels connected to the community there.

MORE PEOPLE + MORE HEAT = MORE NEED

January to June 2023			
	2022	2023	% increase
Meals	8,046	8,343	Over 3.5%
Community Members	9,879	14,674	Over 48%
Expenses	\$102,574	\$199,853	Over 94%
Revenues	\$47,476	\$101,159	Over 113%

As the temperatures rise, so do the numbers of community members seeking refuge and help at PHC. We make the members feel welcome in part by sharing what we have, but we are currently in desperate need of:

- Socks
- Underwear for men and women
- Summer clothing

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Items can be brought to our building at 1816 Portland Avenue. If you have any questions, please email us at: contact@peacehousecommunity.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: KATHLEEN ZUCKERMAN



The Artistry of Volunteering

Kathleen Zuckerman is an artist by vocation and training, so connecting her volunteerism with art is easy. What stands out is how her commitment to Peace House Community underscores key characteristics of the artistic imagination - a keen sense of awareness, an attentiveness to detail, and an abiding curiosity. We tend to describe volunteers by focusing on their function. At another level, however, being a volunteer is often more a matter of art than function, especially when the focus is on building and sustaining relationships. That was immediately evident in talking with Kathleen, who started coming to Peace House when it was still in the old building, held together by hope, patchwork repairs and, of course, the vision of Sr. Rose.

Kathleen had been volunteering at the Free Store on Franklin Avenue. The day it closed, she passed an odd-looking building with glitter on it. On the spot she decided to stop in to see what they

did and whether she might help. The choices she makes about volunteering, Kathleen says, are influenced by the question, "Where will I have the greatest impact on others - and on myself?" The latter part of the question is important because the artistry in volunteering depends on a genuine spirit of mutuality. One person (the volunteer) is not the noble giver and the other (a member or client) a grateful receiver. At Peace House Community, where she began offering some art classes to interested members, she experienced the power of being in conversation with no particular goal in mind except to listen - and learn. She speaks eloquently of the privilege she has when she connects with a member and hears their story. A genuine curiosity in the other person is essential for such conversations to occur. This is not a matter of being nosey, but rather of opening oneself to how the life of another illumines one's own life and, more importantly, shows the uniqueness of each person and each person's journey. In that process of communication, the storyteller begins to appreciate how their story matters.

What members say has an impact on her and how she sees the world. She finds that they have deepened her compassion, a central value cultivated by her Jewish and Buddhist background. "I find that I am much less judgmental generally because of conversations with members," Kathleen says. "They open my mind and help me to realize how much we are alike." While Kathleen cannot easily assess the impact her presence has on members, she is sustained knowing that there is inherent value in her efforts to honor people's humanity.

Please go to the "Stories" section of the PHC website (peacehousecommunity.org) to read the full article about Kathleen.



PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY UPDATES

IN MEMORIAM

PHC recently lost two longtime and beloved friends: Robin Martin and Sister Betty McKenzie.

Sister Betty McKenzie was a long-time volunteer at PHC, a friend to many, a peace activist, a teacher, a Catholic Nun, and a champion Scrabble player. Sister Betty said "Peace work is important. But I think there's something else that's even more important. And that is loving people. You can always find something good in people. Always." Sister Betty McKenzie has been called home.



Robin Martin was a warm-hearted and caring person who tried to spread laughter wherever she went, regardless of her own situation. She was a bright sparkly soul who lived her life the way she chose. She loved her friends deeply and fiercely. She will be greatly missed by our community. Rest in Peace, Robin.



NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DAY

As Marti mentioned in the Director's Corner, PHC volunteers, staff and community members recently participated in a neighborhood clean-up day. Here's proof of their hard work! The City of Minneapolis provided materials, and PHC provided the legwork to make the neighborhood more livable for everyone.



WILLIE - MAKING US LOOK GOOD

Long-time PHC community member, Willie works hard on keeping up the grounds around the building, especially in the back and alley. He pulls weeds, picks up trash and tends the garden. Recently he built a bird feeder and painted this bird bath. Thank you, Willie, for everything you do to make PCH an inviting place for people to gather and socialize, as well as presenting a positive image in the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

PHC participated in the Community Connections Conference sponsored by the city of Minneapolis in June. The 2023 theme of this annual free event was "Minneapolis in Motion" and welcomed residents of Minneapolis, community groups, neighborhoods and local government to explore the ways Minneapolis is growing, moving and changing. It was a great networking opportunity for us with over 800 attendees. Marti headed up our booth with breaks from volunteers David and Denny Scott, Catherine Murphy and Deborah Dapkus.



KICK-OFF TO SUMMER BBQ

It was a hot sunny day for our annual kick-off to summer BBQ. The grills were fired up and turning out burgers and hot dogs. Volunteers brought salads, chips, beans, and plenty of cookies and brownies for dessert. There was plenty of food and everyone had a good time.