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# SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Mission:

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

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We love staying connected with the people who've been part of Peace House Community's journey. Here's a quick update on a few familiar people you may remember from past newsletters. Their stories continue—and so does the impact of your support.



*Mikey*



*Rob*



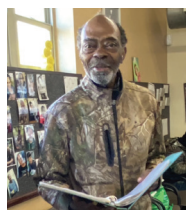
*Ed*



*Joy*



*Ahmed*



*Willie*



*Kat*

**Mikey** passed away, but the photo of him from our newsletter was displayed at his funeral and was greatly appreciated by his family members that attended the service at Central Lutheran Church.

**Ed and Robert** are both housed. Ed works every day at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Minneapolis. Rob loves living with his big friendly dog "Rocky."

**Joy** is mentoring other community members on how to speak to legislators about the multiple issues they face.

**Ahmed** has moved back in with his family.

**Willie** is working with PHC to produce an e-book of his poetry.

**Kat** is recovering from back surgery in January but recently found out she needs additional surgery. She and her "babies" (cats) are happily settled in her new place. "I love it. I can't hear no noise from the street, no people, no traffic. It's quiet."

## Message from Jennifer Turner PHC Board of Directors Vice-Chair

This year marks Peace House Community's 40th anniversary! In 1985, Sister Rose Tillemans started this wonderful, loving, accepting space for those of us experiencing homelessness and low income situations. It's a place where people are treated with respect, love, care, and dignity. A place where everyone belongs.

I learned about the PHC about a year ago, and I am so grateful I did. A growing concern for those experiencing homelessness pushed me to do something, and I jumped at the chance to serve on the Board. It's been a pleasure to meet the other Board members, volunteers, and community members. Everyone brings unique skills, backgrounds, and perspectives, but the common thread we all share is we truly care about Peace House Community's mission and the community it serves.

I serve on the Development Committee, where our goal is to attract potential donors and highlight PHC's needs to make sure we can one day celebrate another 40 years. If you want to do more than donate money to PHC, we want to speak with you. **Together, we can spread the word about PHC's work. Send us an email at [contact@peacehousecommunity](mailto:contact@peacehousecommunity) to arrange a time when we can talk.**

Peace House Community is a safe place to rest, enjoy a hot cup of coffee while talking with friends, have a warm meal, and pass a few hours to feel connected and seen. Since the pandemic, we have welcomed more community members than ever before. This means we must take action to embrace everyone who comes to PHC. We can only do that with your help.



Here are comments from some of Peace House Community's Google reviews. We currently have a 4.4 star average out of five!

*"Welcoming place for all in need. Food, guidance, info, hygiene items, companionship, warmth, conversation, etc, etc, etc. Giving as well as receiving. Went in need of breakfast. Left full of heartwarming joy & belief in humanity and compassion!!!!!!!!!"* —**Me**

*"Treating lgbtq community with dignity."* —**Mark**

*"Good people to help you out with food clothes and shoes"* —**David**

*"The people that work there are the best around. They are kind, always polite and helpful."* —**Mike**

*"Great place for free lunch, hand warmers, and a pair of socks"* —**Rexford**

*"Great place to get food, just sit for a minute. Excellent nice property there"* —**Laura**

*"This was a really neat place. I am a case manager and one of my clients who has been recently housed wanted to go say hi to old friends. Everyone was kind, there were people doing haircuts and hand massages for the homeless. There was a full warm meal and coffee provided. I was honored to get to experience it as a bit of an outsider."* —**Amy**

# Stay Up to Date with Our 40th Anniversary Events

Peace House Community has several events planned to celebrate our 40th anniversary, and we hope to add more events to the calendar. Let us know if you want to receive updates on the festivities by sending an email to [contact@peacehousecommunity.org](mailto:contact@peacehousecommunity.org) asking to be added to our 40th anniversary mailing list.

Mark your calendar for the following events:



## June 15

The Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota will host a concert at Mindekirken: The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church (924 E 21st St, Minneapolis) at 1:00 p.m., with all proceeds going to Peace House Community. Come out to hear some wonderful music by one of the Romantic Era's leading composers in a beautiful church setting.

## June 20

Join us at Wisdom Ways' 4th Annual Summer Solstice event from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. (1890 Randolph Ave, St. Paul, MN). Stop by our table to say hi while you enjoy the celebration of God's gift of nature.

## October 9

PHC will host its 40th anniversary event at the Southern Theater (1420 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis). Kevin Kling will host the event with stories from community members, volunteers, and staff about life at PHC. Family members of Rose Tillemans, PHC's founder, will be there to talk about how it all started. We'll send out notices when tickets become available for this event.

And a quick shameless plug for PHC's online merchandise store...Check out some of the new items with our updated logo! We've added 1985, the year of our founding so that everyone knows we're here to stay. All proceeds go to our operating budget so that we can continue to provide a place to belong for everyone who comes through our doors.

Visit our website and click on the "Store" tab.





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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I'm about to do the thing that fundraising experts say I never should – thank our supporters and ask for more gifts at the same time.

To start, I and everyone at PHC are tremendously thankful for all the support we receive. Everything good that happens at PHC happens because of caring supporters. No matter how much or how little someone is able to give, it provides a safe space for those who desperately need it.

Unfortunately, our community members face a new challenge. Minneapolis is dismantling any homeless camp in the first 48 hours of it being set up. For all the problems the encampments created, they gave people a place to keep their stuff and to receive services from food outreach and other programs. With the City's new approach, more people are losing everyday items like toothbrushes and soap. They aren't receiving the services and supplies that help them survive. That forces them to come to places like PHC. And so, we hosted 15 more community members a day in April than in March. Over the next year, that will add up to an extra 4,000 folks coming through PHC's doors looking for help and support.

As I said, we are thankful for everything we receive from our supporters. Whether you give time, skills, or money, you make a difference to hundreds of people that you will never meet. We thank you for that. **But at the same time, I have to ask for a little bit more. No gift is too small to help us meet the crisis that is facing our community.** Together, we can make sure that our community members have what they need to make it through the day.

*Marti Whittley*