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# FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Community Member Spotlight: *Feeding Others*

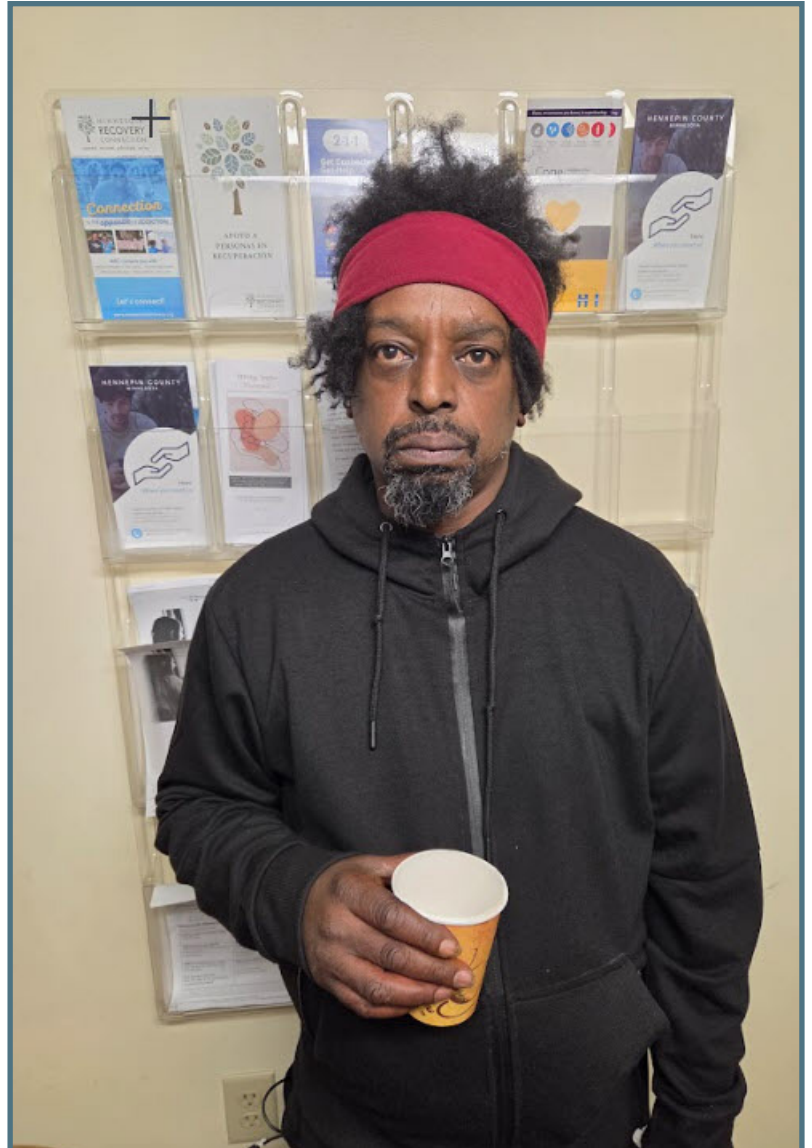
D likes to help out the community at Peace House Community with a very specific service: he brings cereal (and sometimes other groceries) to our kitchen staff. For whatever reason, cereal has been hard to find through our food rescue partners, and PHC can't afford to buy it in the quantities we need. D helps fill the void by collecting cereal from his neighbors.

"The cereal comes from a box that's delivered to Minneapolis Public Housing residents, and senior citizens. My neighbor gives it to me, and then her friend gives it to me. And then another one gave it to me, so I keep getting it from my neighbors." D also brings in canned goods and fresh vegetables when he can get them.

Asking D how long he's been coming to PHC brings back some good memories. "I was going to the old Peace House, so a few years. I have to go back to the beginning. I used to ride the number 2 bus up and down Franklin, and I seen this little building, and I seen a lot of people standing outside. I was like, 'I want to go in there.' As I heard people talk about it, I heard some stories, and I finally made it in there, and I just liked it."

Is there anything D wants to tell PHC's donors and supporters? "I'd directly like to say to them, 'Peace House is here. It's ongoing. It's foundation is good. It's mission statement is good. It does good for the people. And we'd like to continue that.'"

D's been part of the community at PHC for decades, and like PHC, he isn't planning on leaving anytime soon.



# Warmth & Care: Support Our Holiday Backpack Giveaway

It's almost time for our annual holiday backpack giveaway! We plan to provide 250 backpacks filled with socks, gloves, hats, hand warmers, cough drops, a bus pass, and an Aldi gift card. Purchasing these items in bulk stretches our dollars and ensures that everyone receives the same high-quality items. **Would you donate \$20 to give a backpack to one of our community members?** (You can buy more than one backpack if you want!) To contribute, please visit the Peace House Community website and click on Donate, or mail a check. Thank you for including us in your holiday giving—your generosity truly makes a difference!



## *In Loving Memory of Two Dear Friends of Peace House Community*

### **Kathleen Zuckerman**

Kathleen Zuckerman was a beautiful and gentle soul who left us in July. A gifted artist and teacher, she devoted her later years to volunteering, and generously sharing her talents with Peace House Community. Her warm smile and gracious spirit will be missed by all who knew and loved her.



### **Ward Brennan**

A longtime PHC supporter and volunteer, Ward passed away in August. Ward was instrumental in the negotiations that secured PHC's current building and ensured that we could control our own future. He continued volunteering at PHC until the covid pandemic and declining health forced a change, but he and his wife Tria still kept in touch. RIP Ward.

## *Thanking the Partners Who Lift Our Community*



You may have heard the Bombas slogan: "One Purchased = One Donated." Thanks to their local distribution partner, The Drawer, we've received substantial donations of socks and underwear—items we could never afford on our own. We're truly thankful to Bombas and The Drawer for their ongoing support and partnership.



Each week, our dedicated volunteers make the trip to Plymouth to collect generous food donations from Cub Foods, Hy-Vee Grocery, and Holiday Super Station. We regularly receive items from the bakery, deli, produce, and dairy departments. The entire process, from loading carts to transporting and unloading at Peace House takes several hours. We are deeply grateful to these businesses for their ongoing generosity, and especially to our incredible volunteers who show up week after week to make this vital work possible.

# A Night to Remember: Honoring 40 Years of Peace House Community

Our 40th Anniversary Celebration was an unforgettable night filled with storytelling, laughter, and heartfelt reflection, led by Kevin Kling—Minnesota’s beloved advocate for connection through story. The entire evening was nothing short of extraordinary.

To our donors, attendees, sponsors, bidders, and every person who has supported Peace House Community over the past 40 years: **THANK YOU!** Your generosity allowed us not only to meet our fundraising goal, but to exceed it—an incredible milestone that will have a lasting impact.

We also extend a special note of gratitude to our dedicated event planning committee, with particular thanks to Ashley Cox and Ali Souza, whose tireless efforts made this celebration possible.

Your belief in our mission ensures that Peace House Community remains a place of safety, belonging, and dignity for all who walk through our doors. With your continued support, we look forward to building on our legacy of hospitality and compassion for the next 40 years and beyond.

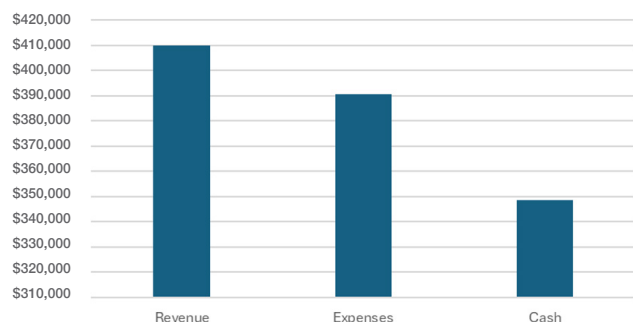
**Thank you for being part of our story—  
and for helping us create a place to belong for everyone who walks through our doors.**



Please go to the Peace House Community website to view the beautiful slide show Media Mike Hazard created for us. <https://peacehousecommunity.org/calendar/40anniversary/october9/gallery/>

## Financial Update

We wanted to give you a quick financial update. As of October 31, we have received almost \$410,000 in revenue this year, and we have spent only \$390,700. We’ve boosted our savings a little bit, which will make our work easier as we put together next years’ budget. We will still have some tough choices to make in terms of priorities; for instance, do we hire more staff or tackle some long delayed repairs to our building? Whatever we decide, we will be able to make the choice because of the dedication and generosity of you, our faithful supporters.





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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

For better or worse, Peace House Community keeps setting records for the number of community members we host. Through the end of October, we hosted almost 10% more members this year than we did in 2024. Even more impressive (or depressing, depending on how you look at it), we're hosting 300% more members than we hosted in 2019, when we started keeping track of the numbers.

The need for PHC continues to grow. More people than ever are struggling to meet their basic physical needs like food and shelter. But just as importantly, they are struggling to find a place to belong. Our community members are not welcomed in many public spaces, either because they can't afford to be there or because they just don't look like they belong. The stigma of being an outsider would wear on anybody, but for those who carry that stigma 24 hours a day, it can be emotionally crippling.

While PHC sometimes struggles to meet our members' needs as effectively as we did in the past, we still do a pretty good job of making people feel welcome. Thanks to generous donors, we make sure everyone who is hungry gets fed. Our volunteers continue to massage hands, repair bikes, tend to emotional and physical wounds, and share a smile with those who need it.

I have to admit that there are days when working at PHC is draining. It's not always easy to stay positive when you see so many people needing so much. Some of our members bring their stress into the building and dump it on us. At those times, I remind myself of the struggles they are facing, and how light my burdens are compared with theirs. I also remind myself of all our supporters who are encouraging and supporting us in our mission. Knowing that you are behind us caring about our community members and sharing the load with us makes a difference.

**Thank-you for being there for our members, and for being there for us.**

*Marti Mattley*