



EST. 1985

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SPRING 2026 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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MEET FLOYD GRABIEL



I am a volunteer at Peace House in Minneapolis. It is a safe place and a warm place that has been part of this neighborhood for over 40 years. I volunteer on Thursdays. The daily routine provides a breakfast and a hot lunch, a time for community discussion, and time to just be in the presence of friends and acquaintances. I serve with three women who have long tenure as volunteers. We are known as "the Golden Girls plus Floyd."

Regulars and others who show up include Whites, Blacks, Native Americans, Somali, old, young, recent immigrants, naturalized citizens, Hispanics, homeless, addicted, alcoholic, women, men, formerly incarcerated individuals, mentally challenged, marginally employed, veterans, the poor and near poor people.

As I neared my first day, I was apprehensive and decided to show up two Thursdays a month. After that first day I have been a regular every Thursday. The work – if you call it such – of a volunteer is difficult to describe other than to say, "whatever." Whatever is needed to be a friend with someone newly met or someone known for a time, to-wit: clean up a table-top, sweep a spill, manage the storeroom, bring someone a napkin or spoon, sit and talk, listen, laugh, commiserate, guide the discussion period. What do you do with your friends? That's what I do as a volunteer.

I am friends with people whom I never expected to be friends. Willie the poet is a friend. El the Native of the White Earth tribe is a friend. Ellie, the grandmother with 38 grandkids is a member of the Oglala tribe. Mustafa is from Morocco. Freddy is celebrating because he finally qualified for housing. Nelson is a Marine veteran who sleeps outside. Kat has been a member almost from the beginning some 41 years ago. Sammy is from Liberia. Jimmy is from Sudan. Dave is bipolar. Tom is one of the smartest people I know. Carlos always has a smile. And on and on.

The recent ICE invasion of Minneapolis has increased anxiety for marginalized individuals all over the city and that anxiety has been felt in Peace House as well. The threat of confrontation, and possible detention is persistent.

Each time I volunteer is a different experience. Some days are better than others. But each day is intensely fulfilling, and I love every minute. Please include the Peace House Community in your prayers.

SPRING MARKS A SEASON OF CHANGE AND RENEWAL

Following the especially challenging winter we experienced in the Twin Cities, the Peace House Community is looking ahead with a renewed sense of hope and purpose. We are welcoming opportunities to reconnect and care for our community. As always, we remain committed to providing a place of hospitality, support and belonging for all who come through our doors.



Volunteers Alex, Joan and Stefanie plant vegetables in a raised garden bed in the back.



Earl works on Jane's sweet little flower bed that beautifies the front of Peace House every summer.

Community member Kat Countryman spent several hours restoring the sign from the original Peace House. Her careful attention to detail helped preserve this meaningful piece of our history for future generations. We are grateful for her dedication to honoring Peace House's legacy and keeping an important part of our story alive. Thank you, Kat!



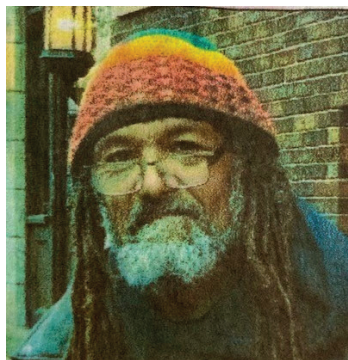
Our beloved Catherine Mamer in front of the original Peace House on Franklin Avenue



Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team of Peace House Board members and volunteers, the back porch area recently received a much-needed makeover. The porch serves as an important gathering space, providing shelter from the elements and warmth with overhead heaters during the winter. Volunteers also installed a metal roll-down door that can be secured at night to discourage unauthorized overnight use. We are deeply grateful for the generosity, energy, and dedication of everyone who helped make this project possible.



IN MEMORIAM



Nelson Walley passed away in April. For many years, Nelson was a colorful and familiar presence at Peace House. A veteran, he shared many moving stories from his life and experiences. He lived in his van with his three beloved little dogs, who were his constant companions. Nelson will be remembered and missed. Rest in Peace, Nelson.

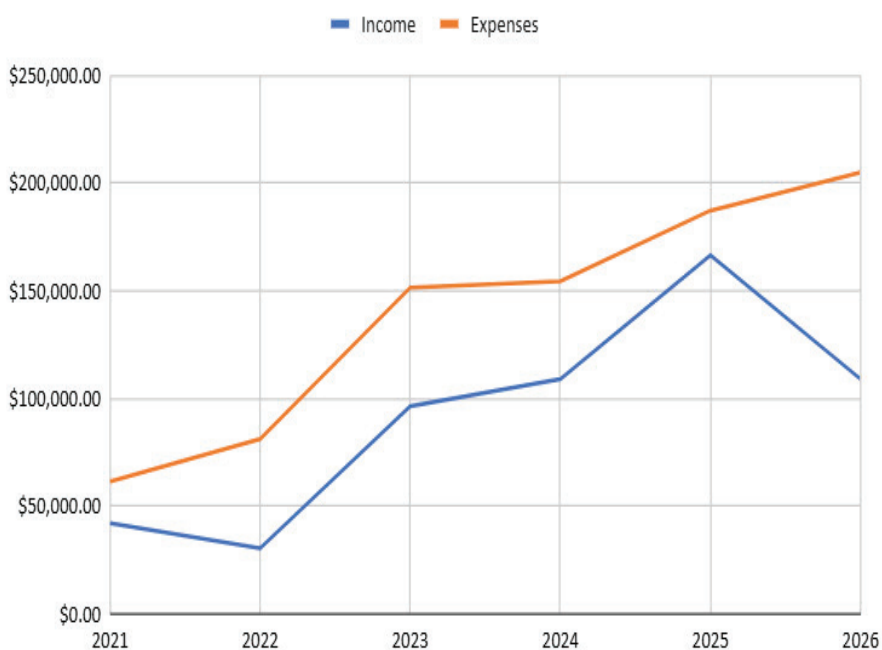
LESSONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Each year, a group of seniors from Cretin-Durham Hall High School chooses to complete their service-learning and community outreach fieldwork at Peace House. Through participation in daily discussions, they have the opportunity to meet and engage with community members and volunteers. Students consistently describe the experience as enriching, meaningful and often eye-opening.

To no one's surprise, Peace House Community's expenses continue to grow each year. This year, our fundraising is lagging behind last year's total. We're not panicking about this, but we know the summer is usually a slow time for donations as people take vacations, enjoy their cabins, and spend time with kids and grandkids. If you have a moment to send a gift to help us through the next couple of months, we would be so appreciative!

Income and Expenses (at the end of May)





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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

While I was working on my Master's Degree 25 years ago, I read an article called "What Sport Are We Playing?", which was written by one of the professors. He used different sports to illustrate the challenges organizations face as they grow. They don't just get bigger, they get more complex.

When you play golf, you are the only one responsible for your score. Whether you have a good day or a bad day, it's because of how you played. Football teams were on the other end of the spectrum. Each position has its own coach, and the teams are so large that half the team (the offense) never gets to play with the other half (the defense). The communication and coordination required to win are amazing, and one person making one good or bad play can decide everyone's fate.

Peace House Community has grown over the years. Rose Tillemans started out by herself, but she gradually attracted volunteers and supporters. The sports metaphor helps me recognize the challenges and opportunities that PHC faces today. We're large enough that we need good communication to make sure everyone knows what's happening and where we want to go, but we're small enough that we all work together.

I want you to understand that as one of our supporters, you are not a fan, sitting in the bleachers, watching us play the game. By donating money, food, clothing, etc., you participate in our mission. By sending questions or suggestions, you coach us on which direction to take in the future. By telling your friends about us, you recruit our next generation of "players." In short, you are a part of our team, and you have a share in any success PHC has.

Thank you for being part of our team, and part of our community.

A handwritten signature in yellow ink that reads "Marti Whittley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.